



USA GYMNASTICS®

2015

Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Rules and Policies

*Governing Competitors and Competitions
sanctioned by*
**USA Gymnastics and
the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program**

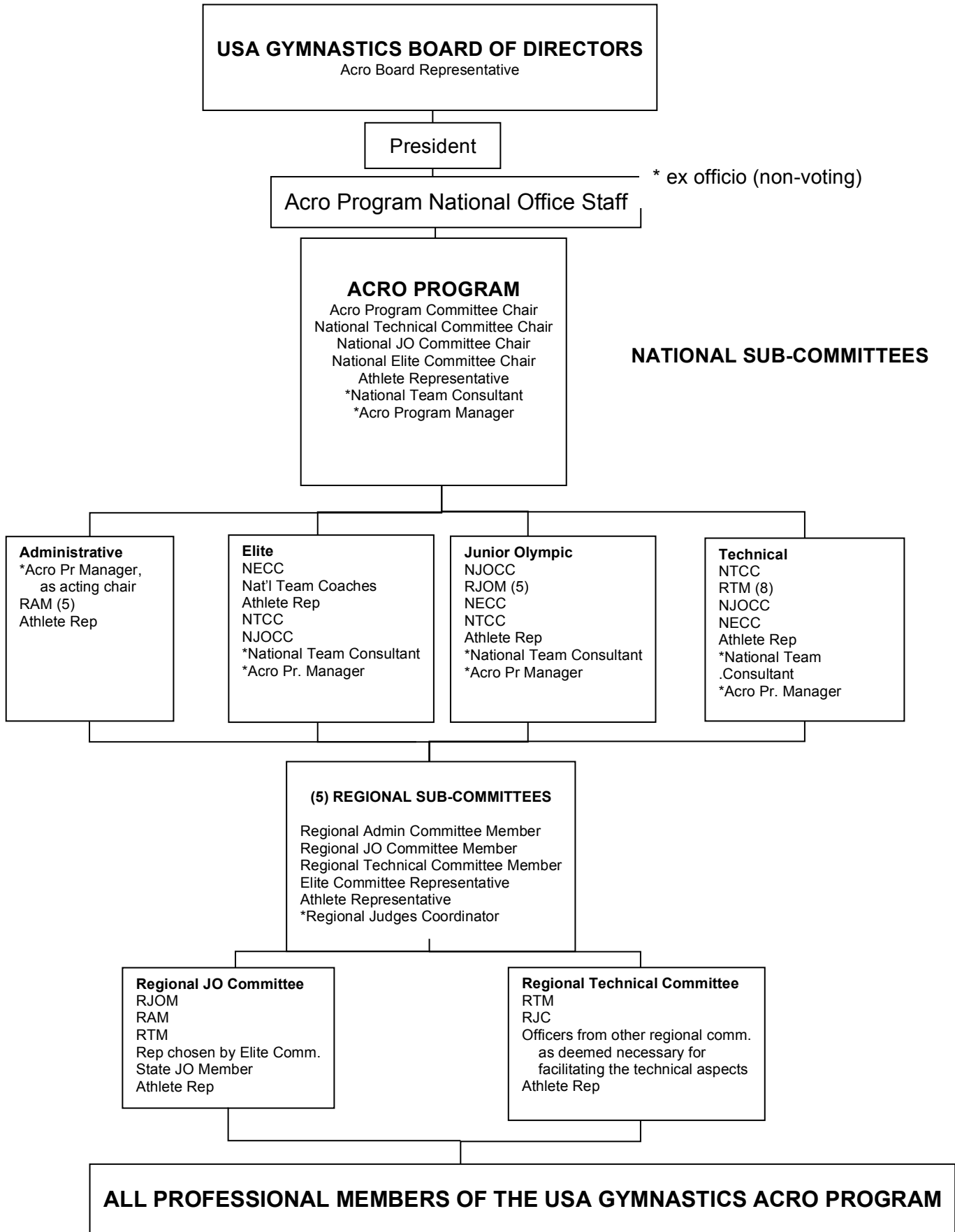
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MAP OF ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS REGIONS



Region 1: Arizona, California, Hawaii (not pictured), Nevada, Utah, Washington, Idaho, New Mexico, Alaska (not pictured) and Oregon

Region 3: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Colorado and Georgia

Region 4: Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming and Wisconsin

Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee

Region 7: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont

USA GYMNASTICS MISSION STATEMENT

- Encourage participation in all aspects of gymnastics
- Support athletes in their pursuit of competitive excellence
- Generate public awareness of the sport of gymnastics
- Commit to Customer Service throughout the organization

ACROBATIC GYMNASTICS MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Mission Statement: Encourage participation and growth in all aspects of acrobatic gymnastics, support athletes in their pursuit of competitive excellence, and generate public awareness.

Vision Statement: To become a premier discipline of Acrobatic Gymnastics.

Values: Trust Commitment, Collaboration, Integrity, Dedication, Passion, Discipline

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the National Acrobatic Gymnastics Program of USA Gymnastics is to promote, serve, and administer the official Acrobatic Gymnastics program for athletes of all levels of ability throughout the United States. This shall be done by:

1. Carrying out the purposes and objectives of USA Gymnastics.
2. Providing for the expansion and improvement of Acrobatic Gymnastics programs through the training and certification of judges and the education of qualified instructors to conduct appropriate Acrobatic Gymnastics programs.
3. Organizing competitions for Acrobatic Gymnastics athletes of all levels of ability at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
4. Providing for the technical organization and development of specific guidelines and rules and policies, and providing a network of communication necessary for the implementation of these objectives.

Interpretation of this publication is the expressed duty and responsibility of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and the President of USA Gymnastics.

NOTE: All bold and italicized font indicates changes from previous version of this document.

SECTION ONE USA GYMNASTICS MEMBERSHIP

1. Athlete Membership

100% of the Athletes appearing in a USA Gymnastics Sanctioned Event must be pre-registered Athlete Members of USA Gymnastics and must be able to produce or have their coach supply a current, valid membership number assigned by the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department.

- a. Athlete Membership is effective once a USA Gymnastics Athlete Member Number has been assigned to the competitive athlete.
- b. Athlete numbers are assigned only after proper payment and a completed membership form have been received by the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department. Any application requiring processing in less than the normal 3-4 week processing time will be assessed a "RUSH" processing fee. Athlete Members may now register also in the Group Gymnastics, Rhythmic, Women's, Men's, or Tumbling/Trampoline categories for no additional cost.
- c. Member benefits are paid out upon receipt of application; therefore, memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- d. Athletes, coaches, and/or judges from countries other than the United States who wish to participate in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events must be registered. The USA Gymnastics Member Services Department provides an insurance-only membership strictly for foreigners.
- e. The Athlete Membership is valid for one competitive year, from August 1 through the following July 31.
- f. Athletes who become members at any time during the year will receive benefits for the remainder of the competitive year.
- g. All Athlete Memberships are automatically null and void each July 31.
- h. More information on Athlete Memberships, including online registration and forms, can be found at www.usagym.org.

2. Introductory Athlete Membership is available for Level 1, 2, and 3 competitors only.

- a. Athlete Membership cards are available for printing from web site when online registration takes place.
- b. Introductory Athlete Membership is required prior to any gymnast taking part in a USA Gymnastics event. Each Introductory Athlete Membership will receive the following benefits:

- i. Right to participate in any USA Gymnastics sanctioned event for which you are qualified
 - ii. Insurance coverage of up to \$50,000 Secondary Accident Insurance (\$500 deductible)
 - iii. USA Gymnastics Introductory Athlete Membership Card
 - c. Introductory Athlete Memberships may be upgraded to full Athlete Memberships (Level 4 and above) within the same competitive year by completing a regular Athlete Member registration form and paying the additional membership fee. Upgrades are processed by mail or fax only.
3. Professional Membership with USA Gymnastics is required for participation as an official, coach, judge, meet director or other professional capacity during any USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.
- a. Professional Membership is open to any coach, judge, or gymnastics professional who is a minimum of 18 years of age. Safety Certification and background check are also requirements for Professional Membership. Professional Members receive many benefits such as Technique and USA Gymnastics magazines.
 - b. Junior Professional Membership is available for 16-17 year-old coaches and judges. Once the individual turns 18 years of age, he/she must apply for Professional Membership.
 - c. A USA Gymnastics Professional Member must hold a Professional Membership for each USA Gymnastics discipline in which he/she is involved: Women's Gymnastics, Men's Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, General Gymnastics, Tumbling and Trampoline, and Acrobatic Gymnastics.
 - d. In keeping with the standards set by the United States Olympic Committee, as well as many youth sports organizations, schools and recreational programs in America today, USA Gymnastics has implemented a background screening process to help ensure a safe and secure environment for our members and additional gymnastics participants. USA Gymnastics is now requiring background screening on all USA Gymnastics Professional Members. This process also includes USA Gymnastics employees, Board members, and volunteers. USA Gymnastics is proud to announce a working partnership with the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) through which we will engage in a comprehensive background screening program.
(usagym.org/pages/membership/pages/background_overview.html)
 - e. Professional Memberships are valid for one year from date of payment. Renewal notices are usually sent to each Professional Member at least 45 days prior to the renewal date or membership may be renewed on the USA Gymnastics website

(www.usagym.org). An application requiring processing in less than the normal 3-4 week processing time will be assessed a "RUSH" fee.

- f. Professional memberships are current and valid only after the applicant has received confirmation from the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department or has a current number listed on the USA Gymnastics web site. A Professional Membership that has been applied for or is in the state of being processed is NOT VALID.
- g. Professional Members are required to visibly display their professional membership card on their person when participating in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.
- h. USA Gymnastics reserves the right to revoke or suspend memberships for violations of its conduct standards. See Section 2, Code of Ethics.

4. Professional Education Programs and Accreditation

a. Safety Education Program Certification

- i. Professional Membership will not be released until a valid Safety Certification is obtained.
- ii. Re-certification is required every four years.
- iii. The Safety Certification Course is available online or as a live course. Course schedules are listed in Technique magazine and on the USA Gymnastics web site.

b. Coaches Accreditation – USA Gymnastics offers various coaching education opportunities. To learn more visit (usagym.org/pages/education/pages/index.html).

c. Meet Director Certification:

- i. Meet Director's Certification is required for ALL Acrobatic Gymnastics sanctioned competitions. The Meet Director must be a Professional Member and therefore must also be Safety Certified.
- ii. The exam and answer sheet can be found on the Acrobatic Gymnastics web site: usagym.org/PDFs/Acro/Rules/Meet_Directors_Certification.pdf. Send completed exam and fee to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director in the National Office.

5. Other USA Gymnastics Memberships

Call USA Gymnastics Member Services (1-800-345-4719) or visit our web site at www.usagym.org for application forms and more information for the following types of membership:

- a. Instructor
- b. Member Club

c. Industry

SECTION TWO CODE OF ETHICS

1. Introduction

The mission of USA Gymnastics is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of gymnastics. USA Gymnastics grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn by USA Gymnastics at any time where USA Gymnastics determines that a member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in gymnastics, USA Gymnastics has adopted the Ethical Code that follows. This Code is not intended to establish a set of rules that will, by inclusion or exclusion, prescribe the appropriate behavior for USA Gymnastics members in every aspect of their participation in the sport. Rather, the Code offers general principles to guide conduct, and the judicious appraisal of conduct, in situations that have ethical implications.

2. This Code cannot further ethical conduct in the sport of gymnastics; that can only come from the personal commitment of the participants in the sport to behave ethically. This Code is offered instead to guide and to affirm the will of all of USA Gymnastics members to safeguard the best interests of the sport by acting ethically at all times.

3. Elements of the Code

a. Participant Relationships

Members of USA Gymnastics are charged with the responsibility for contributing to an environment that makes participation in the sport a positive and rewarding experience. In order to achieve that result, each professional member has a special obligation to make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- i. Fail to follow the safety guidelines established by USA Gymnastics or otherwise knowingly subject a participant to unreasonable physical or emotional risk.
 - ii. Engage in unsportsmanlike conduct including, in particular, attempting to injure, disable, or intentionally interfere with the preparation of a competitor.
 - iii. Engage in conduct toward another participant in the sport that is excessively or repeatedly abusive. USA Gymnastics recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and each athlete, but it is nevertheless incumbent on everyone involved in the sport to support the development and use of motivational and training methods which avoid conduct which is, or is likely to be perceived as being, abusive.
 - iv. Discriminate in the provision of resources or opportunities to any member or prospective member on the basis of race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or mental or physical disability.
 - v. Attempt to intimidate, embarrass, or improperly influence any individual responsible for judging or administering a competition.
 - vi. Engage in business practices directed toward another member which are determined by a court or other similar adjudicatory body to be unethical, illegal, or a breach of contract.
- b. Participation
- Any USA Gymnastics activity or event should be open to any member properly qualified under the rules of that activity or event, and every member participating in a USA Gymnastics activity or event has an obligation to participate to the best of their abilities. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- i. Restrict the ability of a member to qualify for or participate in competition because of the member's association with a particular organization or individual or because of that member's race, sex, creed, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or mental or physical disability.
- ii. Participate as a judge, coach, athlete, or administrator in any activity where that judge, coach, or athlete is inadequately prepared, unable to participate, or fails to participate to the best of his or her ability.
- iii. Engage in behavior that is disorderly or inappropriate as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the activity or other members' participation.

c. Loyalty

A member of USA Gymnastics has a duty of loyalty to the sport of gymnastics and the rules and regulations which govern it. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- i. Knowingly misrepresent the policies or actions of USA Gymnastics or its authorized representatives.
- ii. Fail to resort in the first instance to the established procedures for challenging a competitive result, contesting a team selection decision, complaining about the conduct of another member, or attempting to reverse a policy adopted by USA Gymnastics.
- iii. Breach the duty to maintain appropriately established confidences of USA Gymnastics or its members.

d. Communication

Members of USA Gymnastics have a duty to communicate honestly and openly with the organization and its members. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- i. Misrepresent competitive achievements, professional qualifications, education, experience, ability, criminal record, or affiliations.
- ii. Knowingly disseminate false or misleading information about another member.
- iii. Withhold from athlete members information or resources likely to enhance the athletes in the Junior Olympic movement of the sport or reduce their risk of injury or illness.
- iv. Fail to consult with or inform fully the athlete or the athlete's parents about opportunities made available to the athlete involving competitions, commercial activities, or recognition.
- v. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to decline an invitation to participate in or withdraw from a competition assignment, training camp, or other similar activity.
- vi. Misrepresent the nature or extent of an injury in order to participate in (or cause an athlete to participate in) a competition, training camp, or other similar activity when such participation is inconsistent with the appropriate medical response to the injury.

e. Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Members of USA Gymnastics must ensure that the sport is conducted in an environment free of drug and alcohol abuse. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- i. Use or provide to a third party any drug proscribed by applicable federal, state,

or municipal use.

- ii. Assist or condone any competing athlete's use of a drug banned by the International Olympic Committee, International Gymnastics Federation, United States Olympic Committee, or USA Gymnastics, or, in the case of athlete members, to use such drugs or refuse to submit to properly conducted drug tests administered by one of those organizations.
 - iii. Provide alcohol to, or condone the use of alcohol by minors, abuse alcohol in the presence of athlete members or at USA Gymnastics activities or, in the case of athlete members, consume alcoholic beverages while a minor.
- f. Criminal Conduct
- Members of USA Gymnastics are expected to comply with all applicable criminal codes. This obligation is violated by any member who has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment involving sexual misconduct, child abuse, or conduct that is a violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors, and, depending on the nature of the crime, may be violated by any member who has been convicted or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to any felony charge or indictment involving conduct other than that specifically described above.
- g. Sexual Misconduct
- Professional members of USA Gymnastics must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by avoiding sexual relationships with athletes except where the capacity and quality of the athlete's consent to enter that relationship is beyond question. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:
- i. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.
 - ii. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of a professional member's position as coach, judge, or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.
 - iii. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.
- h. Professional and Athletic Development
- Members of USA Gymnastics should strive to increase their level of proficiency and skill. To fulfill this obligation, professional members should:
- i. Participate in continuing education programs like the safety certification and professional development programs made available by USA Gymnastics.

- ii. Remain current on safety, health, and training developments relevant to the sport and seek advice and counsel of colleagues and experts whenever such consultation is in the best interests of the athlete.
- i. Conflict of Interest
Members of USA Gymnastics are responsible for avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of business on behalf of the organization. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:
 - i. Use, or be perceived as using, USA Gymnastics properties, services, opportunities, authority, or influence to gain private benefit.
 - ii. Fail, as an employee, director, officer, or committee member of USA Gymnastics, to complete an annual conflict of interest form, or fail to complete that form accurately.
 - iii. Incur expenses in furtherance of USA Gymnastics business which are unreasonable, unnecessary, or unsubstantiated.
 - iv. Participate in the deliberation or decision making process about any issue for which the member has a direct financial interest.

4. Enforcement of the Code

Compliance with this Code depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action.

- a. Any individual who believes that a member of USA Gymnastics has failed to meet his or her obligations under this Code is, under all but the most egregious circumstances, encouraged to first address that concern directly to that member. If that action does not result in a satisfactory resolution, the individual may file a written complaint with the President, program director, or other appropriate staff members of USA Gymnastics. That complaint must be signed and must state specifically the nature of the alleged misconduct. Upon review of the complaint and, where appropriate, additional discussions with the complainant and/or member who is the subject of the complaint, the President may:
 - i. Determine that the complaint does not merit further action.
 - ii. Counsel the member who is the subject of the complaint and record both the complaint and the nature of the counseling in the member's permanent record.
 - iii. Refer the complaint, as appropriate, to the state and regional chairs/committees or affiliated organization.
 - iv. Process the complaint under the member misconduct or grievance procedures of USA Gymnastics' Bylaws.

USA GYMNASTICS PARTICIPANT WELFARE POLICY

Updated December 2012

Consistent with the mission of USA Gymnastics,¹ the welfare of gymnastics participants, especially minors, is of paramount concern. When any member, participant, coach, official, volunteer or staff member is subjected to abuse, whether physical or sexual, it undermines the mission of USA Gymnastics and is inconsistent with the best interests of the sport of gymnastics and of the athletes USA Gymnastics serves.

USA Gymnastics is committed to promoting a safe environment for its members, participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff in all gymnastics disciplines. While there are limits to what USA Gymnastics can do, e.g., at the local level because USA Gymnastics does not own, operate or otherwise control gyms or gymnastics clubs, USA Gymnastics has adopted this policy to set forth the efforts it will undertake to promote a safe gymnastics environment, both solely and in partnership with other necessary parties, including member clubs, registered businesses, parents, athletes and the gymnastics community.

(1) Definition of Abuse. Abuse, including child abuse, is defined in various sources, such as state statutes, case law, sports organization and professional association codes of conduct and training manuals, corporate and business workplace documents and human rights commission materials. USA Gymnastics has not adopted any specific definition of abuse; rather, it has chosen to defer to such general sources and definitions for reference and application, depending upon the circumstances. Nonetheless, in general, the following conduct may be considered abusive:

(a) Physical Abuse.

- (i) Any physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes or is likely to cause the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury, including without limitation, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, shaking, shoving, forcing an athlete to train or compete when seriously injured or mandating excessive exercise as a form of punishment;
- (ii) Any physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates or is likely to create a threat of bodily harm or personal injury;
- (iii) Giving alcohol or inappropriate drugs to a participant; or
- (iv) Any violation of applicable law involving physical contact, or that is specifically

¹ The mission of USA Gymnastics is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of gymnastics.

designed to protect minors.

Physical contact that is reasonably intended to coach, teach or demonstrate a gymnastics skill or to prevent or lessen injury (e.g., spotting, catching) does not constitute physical abuse. Infrequent, non-intentional physical contact, particularly contact which arises out of an error or a misjudgment on the part of the gymnast, participant or coach, does not constitute physical abuse.

(b) Sexual Abuse.

- (i) Rape, incest, fondling, exhibitionism or sexual exploitation;
- (ii) Any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, unwanted physical contact, unwelcome advances or requests for sexual favors;
- (iii) Any form of wanton or obscene gesturing, lewd remarks or indecent exposure;
- (iv) Sexual abuse of a minor includes, without limitation:
 - Touching a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either person; or
 - A minor participant touching any person, if the touching occurs at the request of or with the consent of such other person, for the sexual arousal or gratification of either person;
- (v) Neither consent of the participant to the sexual abuse or contact, mistake as to the participant's age, nor the fact that the sexual abuse or contact did not take place at or in conjunction with a gymnastics function is a defense to a complaint of sexual abuse;
- (vi) Sexual abuse also includes sexual misconduct described in the Code of Ethics, including, but not limited to:
 - Soliciting or engaging in sexual relations with a minor;
 - Engaging in any behavior that utilizes the influence of a member's position as coach, judge, official or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete or participant; or
 - Engaging in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; or
- (vii) Any violation of applicable law directly or indirectly involving or related to sexual misconduct or child abuse, or that is specifically designed to protect minors.

- (2) Legal Reporting Requirements. USA Gymnastics will follow applicable law in reporting abusive situations to the proper authorities. If, in USA Gymnastics' reasonable and good faith judgment, reporting to the proper authorities is necessary to protect a person from the possibility of further abuse, it may make such report even if not compelled by law to do so.

- (3) Reporting Suspected Abuse. Any person who reasonably and in good faith believes a member of USA Gymnastics has abused another person, whether physical or sexual, such person may notify the USA Gymnastics National Office pursuant to Articles 9 and/or 10 of the USA Gymnastics Bylaws.
- (a) Telephone Inquiries. At least two USA Gymnastics staff members, one of each gender, shall be trained to receive telephone inquiries regarding abuse. The staff members shall:
- (i) Inform the caller that a written and signed complaint must be received for USA Gymnastics to initiate its grievance procedures against a member of USA Gymnastics pursuant to Articles 9 and/or 10 of the USA Gymnastics Bylaws and offer to provide a copy of the grievance procedures to the caller;
 - (ii) Advise the caller that USA Gymnastics may be legally obligated to report the allegations to the proper authorities even if no complaint is filed pursuant to Articles 9 and/or 10;
 - (iii) Encourage that the victim(s) seek professional help, if appropriate;
 - (iv) Prepare a written summary detailing the call and submit it to the Executive Office;
 - The Executive Office will determine, with the assistance of legal counsel if necessary, whether USA Gymnastics has a legal reporting requirement based upon the inquiry and act accordingly;
 - Written summaries will be filed and indexed by the alleged perpetrator and will become a part of any applicable misconduct / grievance file.
- (4) Implementation of the Misconduct/Grievance Procedures. At least two USA Gymnastics staff members, one of each gender, shall be trained in the proper implementation of the member misconduct and grievance procedures contained in the USA Gymnastics Bylaws.
- (a) One of the trained staff members will be designated to implement the procedures for each complaint;
- (b) The designated staff member will determine whether the accused is a member of USA Gymnastics;
- (i) If the accused is a member of USA Gymnastics, the matter should proceed in accordance with the existing applicable policy;
 - (ii) If the accused is not a member of USA Gymnastics, the staff member should notify the complaining party of the inability of USA Gymnastics to pursue the matter internally, as a courtesy to the complaining party;
- (c) If not already completed, the Executive Office will determine, with the assistance of legal counsel if necessary, whether USA Gymnastics has a legal reporting requirement based upon the complaint and act accordingly;

(d) The designated staff member will “shepherd” the complaint through the process set forth in the USA Gymnastics Bylaws.

(5) Confidentiality. Because of legal reporting requirements, USA Gymnastics cannot guarantee confidentiality in misconduct/grievance matters. However, USA Gymnastics will treat such matters with as much confidentiality as is possible under the circumstances and with the sensitivity they deserve.

(6) Criminal Background Checks of Individual Members. As a condition to being granted the privilege of membership in USA Gymnastics, individuals applying for professional membership must submit to a criminal background check which is consistent with USA Gymnastics’ “Background Screening Policy.” Individuals given a “Green Light” consistent with that policy will not be denied the privilege of membership in USA Gymnastics, provided all other criteria for that category of membership are met. Individuals given a “Red Light” consistent with that policy may be denied the privilege of membership in USA Gymnastics.

USA Gymnastics will continually monitor and review the individuals that are subject to criminal background searches, with the primary goal being to safeguard athletes and other participants with proactive measures while conforming to legal norms and industry best practices.

(7) Athlete Member Advisement. Upon obtaining membership in USA Gymnastics, an enclosure will be mailed with the Athlete Membership Card advising athlete members of his/her role in maintaining the athlete’s own safety and USA Gymnastics’ limited role in local gymnastics clubs, gyms, events and activities.

(8) Registered Businesses and Member Clubs. As a condition to being granted the privilege of membership in USA Gymnastics as a Registered Business or Member Club, a club/business must agree to and comply with the following requirements for the entirety of the club’s/business’ membership period, certification of which must be made annually:

(a) Have a policy consistent with USA Gymnastics’ Participant Welfare Policy that affirms the club’s/business’ commitment to the welfare of gymnastics participants in its organization and includes, at minimum, a description of conduct that will not be tolerated, standards of behavior for its staff/volunteers that promote participant welfare, and a process for receiving and handling complaints regarding conduct that violates its policy.

(b) Certify that no persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership and no persons listed on a federal or state sex-offender registry are or will be associated with the club/business or its activities in any way.

(c) Maintain current commercial general liability insurance that includes at a minimum, participant liability and participant accident medical insurances.

- (d) Employ at least one staff member who is 18 years of age or older and holds a current Professional or safety-certified Instructor membership in USA Gymnastics.
 - (e) Have a mission statement consistent with USA Gymnastics' mission to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of gymnastics.
- (9) Recommendations to Gymnastics Clubs/Businesses. USA Gymnastics does not operate gymnastics clubs, but rather gymnastics clubs/businesses are operated independently at the local level. USA Gymnastics respects the autonomy of local clubs/businesses to operate as they deem appropriate. Even though USA Gymnastics does not and cannot control the activities or operations of local clubs/businesses, it invites local clubs/businesses to join with USA Gymnastics in taking affirmative steps beyond those described in Section 8 above to promote a safe environment for all gymnastics participants, such as by:
- (a) Adopting "standards of behavior" for staff and volunteers working directly with minors to foster a safe gymnastics environment and to prevent abusive situations, and by training staff and volunteers to implement such standards;
 - (b) Implementing a thorough hiring process including, for example, reference and criminal background checks;
 - (c) Encouraging parents to become as active as reasonably possible in his/her child's gymnastics activities; and
 - (d) Otherwise implementing policies and procedures to lessen the likelihood that an abusive situation could develop.
- (10) Event Sanctions. As a condition to being granted a USA Gymnastics sanction for an event, the applicant must certify that no persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership, and no persons listed on a federal or state sex-offender registry, will be associated with the event in any capacity, including, but not limited to, volunteers and meet support personnel. Sanctioned events may only be hosted by Registered Businesses or Member Clubs.
- (11) Advertising. As a condition to being permitted by USA Gymnastics to advertise in its publications, on its web site or through other USA Gymnastics media, advertisers must certify that no persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership are or will be associated with the advertiser's gymnastics-related activities or the position, activity, or event it intends to publicize.

(12) Hiring/Training of USA Gymnastics Staff/Volunteers.

- (a) USA Gymnastics staff members must submit to a criminal background check consistent with USA Gymnastics' "Background Screening Policy." Individuals not given a "Green Light" consistent with that policy prior to their employment may not be hired. Individuals not given a "Green Light" on any subsequent criminal background check may be subject to dismissal. USA Gymnastics shall also check at least two (2) references for each applicant who, if hired, would regularly work directly with minors.
- (b) All USA Gymnastics staff members will be informed about the Participant Welfare Policy, which is included as an appendix in the Employee Policies & Procedures Handbook, and made aware of its importance to our members and our organization.
- (c) The members of the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors must submit to a criminal background check consistent with the Background Screening Policy. Individuals not given a "Green Light" consistent with that policy may be subject to removal.

(13) Standards of Behavior. To promote a safe gymnastics environment for USA Gymnastics' activities and events and to lessen the likelihood that an abusive situation could develop, participants must adhere to the following USA Gymnastics Standards of Behavior:

- (a) Avoid Being Alone with a Minor. Gymnastics is a sport that lends itself to one-on-one situations between a coach and a gymnast. Avoid being alone with a child or any group of children in a private setting (e.g., locker room, bathroom, office, vehicle or residence), and avoid being alone with a child or any group of children in any place that is inappropriate to the coach-athlete relationship. When a one-on-one situation is necessary, such as private coaching lessons or conversations, conduct the activity within the view of another adult.
- (b) Physical Contact. Gymnastics is a sport that creates opportunities for physical contact between a coach and a gymnast. Physical contact is acceptable when it is reasonably intended to coach, teach or demonstrate a gymnastics skill or to prevent or lessen injury (e.g., spotting, catching). However, care should be taken to ensure that such contact is not invasive of sensitive areas of the body.
- (c) Parental Monitoring. Parents are encouraged to become as active as reasonably possible in monitoring the activity/event.

(14) Education of the Gymnastics Community. USA Gymnastics will provide or cause to be provided education for members of the gymnastics community geared toward promoting a safe gymnastics environment as follows:

- (a) Through a designated section of its website with the content being updated as necessary;
- (b) Through each of its magazine publications with at least one article per year;

- (c) At each National and Regional Congress through a live presentation available to Congress attendees;
 - (d) Online or electronically through the safety/risk management certification or other USA Gymnastics University courses;
 - (e) Through brochures and/or posters available to members and Member Clubs/Registered Businesses;
 - (f) At least annually in designated athlete meetings;
 - (g) At least annually to designated athletes' parents;
 - (h) In its publications such as the Safety/Risk Management Handbook and the Rules and Policies.
- (15) Professional Development. Professional and Instructor members of USA Gymnastics should strive to increase their level of proficiency and skill by remaining current on safety, health and training developments relevant to the sport and by seeking advice and counsel of colleagues and experts whenever such consultation is in the best interests of the athlete.
- (16) Communication. USA Gymnastics will consistently communicate:
- (a) Its mission and that physical and sexual abuse are inconsistent with its mission and the best interest of the sport of gymnastics and its participants;
 - (b) Its commitment to and work toward a safe environment for all gymnastics participants.
- (17) Document Retention. USA Gymnastics will permanently retain misconduct / grievance files and materials.
- (18) Policy Review. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary.

SECTION THREE

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

1. Coaches

All Coaches are obligated to:

- a. Maintain a USA Gymnastics Professional, Jr. Professional, or Introductory Coach Membership and visibly display or have readily available their USA Gymnastics membership card on their person at all sanctioned competitions.
- b. Maintain current Safety Certification and background check.
- c. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics and Participant Welfare Policy
- d. Be professional:
- e. Display good sportsmanship
- f. Dress in appropriate attire that reflects the best image of Acrobatic Gymnastics
 - i. At State meets and above, the coaches' dress code is as follows:
 1. Closed toe athletic shoes; Athletic warm-up pants or "Dockers style" pants (No jeans).
 2. Athletic or tailored shorts that are of a reasonable length (7" inseam). No holes, tears or short-shorts are allowed.
 3. Collared shirts, business casual shirts or T-shirts with gym logo. (No spaghetti straps, low-cut tops or midriff revealing shirts) No hats or visors.
- g. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order to provide the safest environment for the athlete.
- h. Turn off cell phones (or set on vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing the competition.
- i. Attend all coaches' meetings and be familiar with the meet set-up and organization.
- j. Continually update coaching knowledge and experience on a planned regular basis by means of study, certification programs, participation in clinics, etc.
- k. Be respectful of and responsible for his/her athletes at all times during the travel to and from the competition, at the training prior to competition, during the off hours, and during the competition itself.
- l. Treat all competitions the same regardless of skill level.

- m. No coach has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies.
- n. Follow all guidelines for the competition and the USA Gymnastics Rules and Policies for Acrobatic Gymnastics, including entry regulations.
- o. Submit legible and complete tariff sheets for each exercise by the designated deadline through the Online Tariff Sheet Submission Process.
- p. Provide music for each exercise on separate CD's, correctly marked. They must be turned in 30 minutes prior to the beginning of competition for that session.
- q. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct. Constant criticism of officials gives the athletes a negative perspective of the sport.
- r. Show respect for all athletes, coaches, judges, and meet personnel. If a coach acts inappropriately, he/she may receive a written warning from the Meet Referee(s) or the Jury of Appeals. On any subsequent violation, the coach may be removed from the competition.
- s. Show respect for all Committee Members. If a coach acts inappropriately, he/she may receive a written warning from the Program Committee. On any subsequent violations, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken by the Program Committee, following USA Gymnastics guidelines.
- t. Coach only their own athletes unless another coach asks for assistance or an athlete has no coach available.
- u. Refrain from approaching a judge directly. Direct judging inquiries through the proper channels, generally through the Meet Referee.
- v. Instruct gymnasts and parents to discuss any concerns they may have directly with the coach.
- w. Inform athletes and their parents of all competitive requirements as well as their rights and obligations.
- x. Obtain an Accident Report Form signed by the Meet Director and/or medical personnel in the case of any injury to a gymnast for whom they are responsible. Accident Report forms will be included in the Sanction packet sent to the Meet Director, who will duplicate and provide copies for the medical personnel. The coach or parent of the injured athlete must be sure to secure this form, completed by the medical personnel and signed by the Meet Director, prior to leaving the competition.
- y. Show respect for the flag and the National Anthem. Remember that we teach young people by example.

2. Judges

All Judges are obligated to:

- a. Maintain their USA Gymnastics Professional Membership and visibly display or have readily available their USA Gymnastics membership card on their person at all sanctioned competitions.
- b. Maintain current Safety Certification and background check.
- c. Maintain Judges' Certification ratings and active status requirements.
- d. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics and Participant Welfare Policy
- e. Be professional in conduct and attire:
 - i. Dress appropriately in the required uniform, including USA Gymnastics Officials patch, regardless of the level of competition.
 1. Women: navy blue or black blazer, navy blue or black skirt/slacks/split skirt (skort), white blouse, black or navy closed-toe shoes, USA Gymnastics Officials patch. The hemline is to be no shorter than 3" above the knee.
 2. Men: navy blue or black blazer and slacks, white shirt, red tie, black or navy shoes, USA Gymnastics Officials patch
 - ii. Be mentally and physically prepared and rested in order that the evaluations be as accurate as possible for all gymnasts.
 - iii. Be quick, cooperative and efficient in resolving differences during a conference.
- f. Turn off cell phone (or set at vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing competition.
- g. Be familiar with the competition set-up and organization. No judge has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies.
- h. Continually update judging knowledge and experience on a planned, regular basis by means of study, judging as much as possible, practice judging, participating in clinics, etc.
- i. Fulfill all assignments. Only dire circumstances should prohibit a judge from fulfilling an assignment. If a judge must cancel an assignment, he/she must notify the appropriate officials at the earliest possible moment.
- j. Be confidential about meet matters; own scores, or other judges' scores or opinions. Refrain from conversation with other judges, coaches, parents, or others during the competition.
- k. Treat all competitions with the same regard, not affected by skill level.

- l. Set an example for the athletes by displaying a positive attitude and exemplary conduct.
- m. Show respect for all athletes, coaches, other judges, and meet personnel.
- n. Show respect for all Committee Members. If judge acts inappropriately, he/she may receive a written warning from the Program Committee. On any subsequent violations, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken by the Program Committee, following USA Gymnastics guidelines.
- o. Any conversation or comments with the athlete should be made only if requested by the coach.
- p. Show respect for the flag and the National Anthem. Remember we teach young people by example.
- q. Judge's Oath:
I swear on my honor that while judging I shall proceed and act with sportsmanlike behavior and dignity and commit myself to evaluate honestly the exercises performed, regardless of the personality and affiliation of the performer.

3. Professional Member Behavior Policy at USA Gymnastics Sanctioned Events

- a. Unacceptable behavior can be defined as:
 - i. Verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse of the gymnast.
 - ii. Inappropriate remarks or comments, harassment, and/or gestures directed toward any official or meet personnel during the competition. No coach or judge has the right to demand a last minute change in the course of the meet or to jeopardize the athlete/competition in any way, unless there has been a violation of the Rules and Policies. All comments should be directed to the Meet Referee.
 - iii. Contact with other persons outside of the competitive floor area during the actual warm-up and course of competition. (Exceptions: USA Gymnastics or club doctor, trainer, other credentialed club coaches, or USA Gymnastics credentialed personnel).
 - iv. Derogatory remarks to the press in regards to USA Gymnastics, its designated representatives, meet officials or personnel.
- b. Such above described behavior will be penalized as follows:
 - i. First Offense: Verbal or written warning will be issued by the Meet Referee, Jury of Appeal, designated representative of USA Gymnastics or Program Committee.
 - ii. Second Offense: Withdrawal of floor credential, necessitating ejection from the competitive floor area (or possibly the entire competitive arena) or training camp.

- iii. Third Offense: Process the complaints under the member misconduct or grievance procedures of USA Gymnastics' Bylaws.

SECTION FOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ATHLETES

1. The athlete has the right to:
 - a. Compete in a meet if all requirements for eligibility have been met and the athlete has been properly entered. Local meets are considered invitational.
 - b. Enter any sanctioned meet without being affiliated with a club; however, the athlete must be accompanied by a USA Gymnastics Professional Member of Acrobatic Gymnastics who is properly certified.
 - c. Use the facilities and services of any person connected officially with the meet.
 - d. Expect courteous and respectful treatment from all participants and meet personnel.
 - e. Expect that the competition site and equipment provide a safe and adequate environment.
 - f. Repeat an exercise in total or from the point of interruption if equipment failure occurs. The decision to repeat must be made prior to the flashing of the score.

2. The athlete is obligated to:

- a. Be a properly registered Athlete Member or Introductory Member with USA Gymnastics and be prepared to show his/her membership card.
- b. Follow the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics and Participant Welfare Policy.
- c. Be competent at the level at which he/she is competing.
- d. Be familiar with the rules of the meet and schedule of competition. Be ready for competition on time. Those who miss their turn will not be allowed to compete.
- e. Be present at the site of the meet for sufficient warm-up.
- f. Remain in the area of competition designated for athletes, as competitors or observers.
- g. Wear the proper attire for warm-ups and competition as well as opening and closing ceremonies and awards. Appropriate attire for awards is competition apparel (not warm-up).
- h. Refrain from wearing jewelry and other prohibited accessories.
- i. Wear hair secured away from the face and according to the rules.
- j. Perform to the best of his/her abilities.
- k. Accept the received score without criticism or comment.
- l. Be courteous, respectful, and polite to all meet officials and other participants. Turn off all cell phones (or set on vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing the competition.
- m. Be aware that infringement of obligations could lead to deduction and/or expulsion by the Jury of Appeals or Meet Referee.
- n. Athlete's Oath:
As a member of USA Gymnastics, I understand that USA Gymnastics is dedicated to the safe development of the Acrobatic Gymnastics discipline throughout the United States. I promise to abide by all rules and regulations of USA Gymnastics and the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program and to conduct myself in a safe and courteous manner at all times.

SECTION 5 SANCTIONING PROCEDURES

1. Sanctioning a USA Gymnastics Event
 - a. SANCTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL USA GYMNASTICS CLINICS, COMPETITIONS, WORKSHOPS, TOURS AND EXHIBITIONS.
 - i. Local, invitational, State and Regional Meets, clinics, skills testing.
 - ii. All qualifying meets hosted under the supervision of USA Gymnastics Regional/State Administrative Committees.
 - iii. State and Regional events hosted under supervision of USA Gymnastics State or Regional Administrative Committees.
 - iv. National events hosted under the supervision of the USA Gymnastics Director of Events and/or the Program Manager of Acrobatic Gymnastics.
 - v. Any invitational competition, workshop or clinic involving current U. S. National Team Members.
 - vi. International - Any meets involving gymnasts from other countries.
 - vii. Exception – Judges’ or coaches’ workshops which do not include any athletes (even as demonstrators) are not required to be sanctioned. However, it is strongly recommended that all workshops are sanctioned.
 - b. USA Gymnastics, as the governing body for the sport in the United States, is responsible for the granting of sanctions for those events, as defined in the USA Gymnastics Sanctioning Policies and Procedures.
 - c. USA Gymnastics sanctions will be secured through the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department for all USA Gymnastics sponsored events/competitions.
 - d. Sanctions for Acrobatic Gymnastics competitions may be requested by any USA Gymnastics Acro Professional Member who is a Certified Meet Director. The club must be a registered business member with USA Gymnastics or a Member Club in order to obtain a sanction.
 - e. When requesting a sanction for a competition, additional days such as training days, meeting days, skills testing, etc., must be included, as well as competition days.
 - i. Any events that are being conducted in more than one location (two venues, for example) must have a separate sanction for each location.
 - f. Once the sanction has been granted, the USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies must be followed.
 - g. A non-USA Gymnastics sanctioned event may not be conducted concurrently with a USA Gymnastics sanctioned event.

- h. Request for sanction forms are available on the web site at www.usa-gymnastics.org or can be requested from Member Services. Domestic sanction requests may also be filed online.
- i. Sanctions may be obtained for local meets with only one team participating (inter-squad meets).
- j. Blanket sanctions are no longer in effect.
- k. It is the responsibility of the meet director to:
 - i. Mail the "Request for Sanction Form" a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meet to the USA Gymnastics Office, along with the sanction fee.
 - ii. Requests received less than thirty days prior to the event will be assessed a late fee.
 - iii. Be present during the entire warm-up and competition. It is permissible to indicate two meet directors on the Request for Sanction form.
 - iv. Follow all regulations found in the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Rules and Policies and all technical regulations from the Junior Olympic Code of Points and other published technical updates, supplements, minutes.
- l. Verify that all equipment specifications are correct and the equipment is properly installed.
- m. Secure judges through the Regional Judges Coordinator.
- n. Verify that gymnasts and coaches have included their Athlete or Professional Membership number on the entry form. (It is the coaches' responsibility to indicate the correct event, age division, level and citizenship.)
- o. Consider all reasonable safety measures when setting up the warm-up and competition areas.
 - i. Each competitive area should not overlap with another competitive area.
 - ii. There cannot be any obstructions on or near the competition or warm-up floor.
 - iii. There must be sufficient ceiling height for performance of exercises.
- p. Report results according to procedures as stated in Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies and Junior Olympic Code of Points.
- q. The Meet Director must be thoroughly versed in the organization and regulations of gymnastics competitions. Any meet director who violates any regulations of the Rules and Policies may be subject to disciplinary action.
- r. Upon receipt of the "Request for Sanction Form" and appropriate fee, the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department will forward a sanction packet which includes the following:
 - i. Certificate of Sanction, granting approval. This certificate must be posted during

the competition.

- ii. Sanction Report Form
 - iii. Coaches' and Judges' sign-in sheet
 - iv. Application for a Certificate of Insurance (for events conducted in an outside facility which requires proof of insurance.) The Meet Director must forward this application directly to the insurance company.
 - v. Incident and Injury report form, which must be completed in the event that an athlete is injured. The Meet Director must sign the form; the attending medical personnel must complete the form and give it to the coach or parent of the injured athlete, who then submits it to the insurance company.
- s. Request for changes to original Request for Sanction:
- i. The Meet Director must submit the request to change the sanction in writing to Member Services.
 - ii. Request must be made at least ten (10) days prior to the event.
 - iii. If a Certificate of Sanction is received prior to the change, the Meet Director must make the changes on the certificate. A new certificate will NOT be issued.
- t. After the officials have signed the Sanction Report Form, the person named on the form as Meet Director must sign and return it to the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department within 24 hours. The coaches' sign-in sheet must also be attached.
- u. If a sanctioned event is cancelled, the Meet Director must write the word CANCELLED on the Meet Report form, sign it and return it to USA Gymnastics Member Services.

2. Sanction Fees:

- a. All domestic sanctions are \$85 online for events: locals, invitational(s), qualifiers, state championships, and regional championships for all Junior Olympic and Elite levels. Sanction fees for National-level meets will be paid by the National USA Gymnastics Office. The fee is \$90.00 if you mail in the sanction form.
- b. You must also be a Registered Business to obtain a sanction.
- c. For events in which foreign athletes and coaches participate, a foreign sanction fee of \$300 is paid in lieu of the regular sanction fee. For more details, see item V in this section, "Sanctioning Requirements for Foreign Exchanges."
- d. Late Fees:
 - i. Late sanction request: A fine of \$25 per sanctioned event will be charged to members whose request is postmarked less than thirty (30) days prior to the event.
 - ii. Very late sanction request (received less than seven (7) days prior to the date of

the first day of an event): A charge of \$100 per sanctioned event will be assessed plus the appropriate sanction fee.

- e. Sanction Fees (and any late fees) are not refundable, regardless of the reason for canceling a meet.

3. Violations of Sanctions

When a Meet Director and/or other Professional Member(s) participating in the event fail to follow the Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies, actions may be taken against the Meet Director and/or the individual offenders by the USA Gymnastics Office, through the State/Regional Administrative Committee Chairman, in conjunction with the State/Regional Administrative Committee.

- a. The Meet Director may be fined from \$20-\$500 for infractions of the rules. He/she may lose the right to host sanctioned meets for a period of one (1) season or longer. He/she may lose his/her Acrobatic Gymnastics Professional Membership.
- b. If an individual gymnast is in violation of the regulations, he/she will be disqualified and all awards returned. (i.e. wrong level, wrong age)
- c. If an individual who does not have the appropriate current Professional, Jr. Professional or Introductory Coach Membership or who falsifies a Professional, Jr. Professional or Introductory Coach Membership number attempts to act as a coach on the floor of a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition, that individual will be removed from the meet (field of play) by the Meet Director.
 - i. If the club represented by that individual has no other coaches present who are Professional, or Introductory Coach Members and at least 18 years of age, then their athletes will not be allowed to compete in that meet.
 - ii. Entry fees for that competition will not be refunded under these circumstances.
 - iii. The individual, as well as the club he/she represented, will be sent a letter of warning from the Meet Director and/or Regional Administrative Committee Chairman. A copy of the letter will be copied to the National Office.
- d. Sanctions may be revoked.
- e. When the sanction is revoked, no score from the competition is valid.
- f. Sanction violations may include but are not limited to failures to meet competition specifications – equipment, personnel, etc.

4. Procedures For Reporting

- a. Sanction Report Forms – An official USA Gymnastics Sanction Report Form will be included in the sanction packet and must be completed for all sanctioned meets.
 - i. Mail the original form to the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department within 24 hours of the meet.
 - ii. Cancelled Events – Report forms must be signed by the Meet Director and

returned to the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department with a notation of cancellation.

- iii. Additional Sanction Report Forms can be found online at the USA Gymnastics Website <http://www.usagym.org/forms>.
- b. Acrobatic Gymnastics Competition Report Form – Following a competition the Meet Director is responsible for completing the Competition Report Form. The original form, along with the athlete head tax both must be sent to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director at the National Office. A copy of the form is to be sent to the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman. The form must be postmarked within ten days of the competition. (see Appendix A-2) The revenue from the tax goes to support the program for everything from staff salaries, program committees, program development, coaches' and judges' education, athlete support as well as events.
- c. Meet Referee Report Form – Following a competition, the Meet Referee is responsible for completing the Meet Referee Report Form. This form must be sent to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman and the Regional Judges Coordinator within ten days of the competition. (see Appendix A-3)

5. Sanctioned Events with Foreign Athlete Participation

With the increased activity of foreign athletes' participation in this country, USA Gymnastics has the responsibility to inform our Professional Members of the FIG regulations governing these activities. The FIG and its member federations have jurisdiction over international events (events involving more than one country's athletes). Violations of the FIG regulations can result in restrictions of the member federation and/or its athletes. While USA Gymnastics realizes the cultural enrichment that these types of events provide to our members, strict compliance to the FIG Regulations MUST be followed. CONTACT THE USA GYMNASTICS MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTION. DO NOT DIRECTLY CONTACT ANY FOREIGN FEDERATION, CLUB, ATHLETE, COACH OR JUDGE.

a. STATUTES OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE (FIG):

i. Relationships between Federations, Unions, Groups and the FIG

34.3 Inter-Federation Events and responsibilities of Federations

Federations may organize events among themselves in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations of the FIG. It is, however, forbidden for gymnasts or judges of a federation to participate in competitions or demonstrations in the sphere of activity of another federation without the prior consent of the federations involved. Likewise, the participation of gymnasts or judges of a federation in an event organized by a body other than a federation must be subject to the prior consent of any federations involved. Federations are also responsible to FIG for the behavior of their gymnasts, coaches, judges and other officials and they act as guarantors to the FIG in respect of these responsibilities.

ii. Article 28 Code of Discipline

28.1 The sanctions which may be imposed upon a federation or an individual for an act of misconduct are: a warning, possibly with publication in the FIG Bulletin

1. A suspension of the federation, or of a person, from participation in any official event of the FIG or from several such events
2. Exclusion from any future participation in the activities of the FIG
3. Refusal of admittance to any events of the FIG
4. A financial imposition
5. Exclusion of a federation, following resolution of the Congress
6. Suspension from office of any elected member and possible exclusion of office following resolution of the Congress.
7. In the event that any of the above actions are imposed, the Program Committee for USA Acrobatic Gymnastics must be notified immediately by the professional member directly involved in receiving such a sanction.

iii. Invitations for Foreign Athletes (Competitions/Exhibitions/Training)

1. Submit a completed Request for Foreign Sanction form, with the appropriate fee no later than 120 days prior to the event date to USA Gymnastics Member Services, Attention: FOREIGN SANCTIONS.
2. If received in less than 120 days, an additional \$100.00 late fee is due.
3. If the activity is a competition or exhibition, a USA Gymnastics Sanction is REQUIRED. If the exchange is for training only, only a letter of invitation with the specific information is required.
4. Sanction fee will be determined based upon the particulars of the event (up to \$250,000.00).
5. Do not send any invitations (foreign or domestic) until the USA Gymnastics Member Services Department has notified you that approval has been granted.

iv. Other Considerations

Use of the word "INTERNATIONAL" is strictly FORBIDDEN.

Promotion or advertising depicting the event as a competition between two or more countries is forbidden (i.e. USA vs. Canada).

1. Athletes from a foreign country competing in the United States represent only their club at the exchange; they are NOT representing their country as a national team member.

6. Higher sanction fees may be assessed for galas or exhibitions depending upon the level of the

participating athletes.

7. FIG has a 5% tax on prize money awarded at an event.
 - i. If your club is planning on traveling to another country, it is REQUIRED that notice be given to the USA Gymnastics Office in order to gain written permission from both federations.
 - ii. All exhibitions, competitions, and training events between countries (i.e. USA vs. Foreign Country) are under the jurisdiction of USA Gymnastics.
 - iii. In order for a foreign judge to officiate a USA Gymnastics Sanctioned competition, their federation MUST grant permission for them to do so.
8. Sanctioning Requirements for Foreign Exchanges
the following categories have been defined for participation of foreign athletes in this country and for participants of USA club athletes in a club exchange in a foreign country. All exchanges involving foreign athletes are under the jurisdiction of the FIG and the host Federation. Every procedure MUST be followed to protect the athletes and the federations.
 - a. Competitions/Exhibitions
 - i. Requirements if competition or exhibition takes place in the United States:
 1. Prior approval of Foreign Federation must be secured through request made by USA Gymnastics.
 2. All foreign athletes/coaches/judges must register with USA Gymnastics - (\$25 registration fee per person)
 3. Sanction Application Fee - \$300 for a competition.
 4. Meet Directors may invite an unlimited number of countries, as long as they are all documented at the same time with original sanction request.
 5. An additional request for adding countries after the original request has been processed will result in an additional fee of \$25 per country.
 6. A request for adding countries must be received a minimum of 11 business days before the event.
 7. The birth date and age of the athletes will be required, but the age of the foreign coaches and judges will not be required.
 8. All aspects of the event MUST be approved by USA Gymnastics. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. sponsorships
 - b. marketing/property rights
 - c. equipment/format
 - d. television

- e. all promotional, marketing, and advertising materials
- ii. Requirements if competition or exhibition takes place in another country:
 - 1. Prior approval of foreign Federation must be secured through request made by USA Gymnastics.
 - 2. Prior notification to USA participants that USA Gymnastics insurance does not cover their participation in an event sponsored by and held in a foreign country.
 - 3. Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange and they are not there as official USA representatives.
 - 4. Copies of valid passports must be turned into the National Office.
- iii. Training Exchanges
 - 1. Requirements if training takes place in United States:
 - 2. Prior approval of foreign Federation must be secured through a request made by USA Gymnastics.
 - 3. Proof of Insurance coverage:
 - a. It is the sole responsibility of the event host to secure proper insurance for the event. (Be aware that some insurance packages do not cover foreign athletes or coaches.)
 - b. Training exchanges may not be "USA Gymnastics-sanctioned"; therefore, the USA Gymnastics Athlete Member insurance is not in effect.
 - 4. Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange and they are not participating as official USA representatives.
 - 5. Requirements if training only takes place in another country:
 - a. Prior approval of foreign Federation secured through request made by USA Gymnastics.
 - b. Prior notification to USA participants that USA Gymnastics insurance does not cover their participation in an event sponsored by and held in a foreign country.
 - c. Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange and they are not there as official USA representatives.

SECTION SIX COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

1. Introduction

The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program is a coordinated program that prepares athletes for the highest level of competition. It is based on FIG rules and is generally designed to prepare the USA competitor for the strictest possible interpretation of these rules when the athlete reaches the Elite level. The Junior Olympic program was developed with the belief that all athletes must have a solid foundation of basic skills in order to advance safely. Its ten levels are carefully progressive in nature. The Junior Olympic Program begins with Pre-Team Levels 1-3 that provide training in beginning skills for recreational activity and in preparation for competition at higher levels. The competitive program commences with Level 4 and can be mastered by athletes with no previous exposure to competitive acrobatics.

Level 5 exercises are compulsory and fully choreographed including music. Level 6 also has compulsory skills, but music and choreography are chosen by the coach and athletes. Choreography is optional at Level 6.

Level 7 allows athletes to choose different elements from each row for balance, dynamic, and individual categories. These elements are to be choreographed into an exercise of the athletes' and coaches' choosing.

Levels 8-10 perform two exercises, balance and dynamic. At Level 8, the choice of elements is from compulsory elements provided in the Junior Olympic Code of Points. Elements for Levels 9 involve compulsory and options choices, while Level 10 elements are chosen from the optional elements contained in the FIG Tables of Difficulty. For each of these levels, types of elements are specified as well as minimum and maximum difficulty ranges. For details, see the 2015 Code of Points.

11-16 Age Group is part of the USA Acrobatics JO L9 program. The level 9 program is modeled after the FIG 11-16 Age Group. The reason that the 11-16 Age Group division was merged into the USA Acrobatics L9 Program are:

1. To simplify
2. Streamline in the effort to help grow our sport.

We are merging elements from each program (L9 & 11-16) that will allow athletes to continue training at either level. All of the skill selections for 11-16 are currently in the L9 program. Pair/groups would be able to compete the exact same routine in the US competitive program as well as at an international age group competition. This will eliminate the need for multiple routines. The L9 program would follow the current rules for the competitive season for the

current qualification process. These pair/groups would compete in the US age categories for the US competitive program. Level 9 USA JO diagrams should be turned in during our competitive season. If any pair/group is wanting an international assignment or wanting to be selected to the 11-16 Age Group Team they must attend Acro Cup or other designated selection event each competitive year to be considered. At the Acro Cup each year 11-16 routines must be presented. 11-16 FIG diagrams are to be turned in at Acro Cup and any international assignments.

The competitive year is defined as the period from August 1 through July 31.

SECTION SEVEN COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. Age Determination

- a. Age is determined by the competitor's age as of December 31 of the year in which the competition occurs.
- b. The age of the eldest member of a pair/group determines the age group in which the pair/group competes. There is no minimum age requirement in the Junior Olympic levels. The maximum age is 30 with a maximum age difference between partners of 15 years (17 years for Men's Group). **The age difference is calculated from the youngest athlete to the oldest athlete.
- c. Athletes must be 13 years old or older to compete at the Senior Elite level or meet the following:
 - i. Twelve-year-olds who have had one full season of Level 10 competition experience in acrobatic gymnastics or similar optional gymnastics competition may compete Elite.
 - ii. Senior World Championships requires athletes to be 15 years of age or older.
- d. Athletes who are a minimum of 11 years old may compete in the JE 12-18 category within the United States. All rules and requirements of the JE 12-18 level apply.
 - i. A 10 year old who has had one full season of Level 10 competition experience in acrobatic gymnastics or in similar optional gymnastics and has met the requirements of the Level Mobility Process may petition to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee, via the National Office, to be allowed to compete as 12-18.
- e. Athletes who are a minimum of 12 years old may compete in the JE 13-19 category within the United States. All rules and requirements of the JE 13-19 level apply,
 - i. A 11 year old who has had one full season of Level 10 competition experience in acrobatic gymnastics or in similar optional gymnastics and has met the requirements of the Level Mobility Process may petition to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee, via the National Office, to be allowed to compete as JE 13-19.
- f. Age Groups for the Junior Olympic Program
 - i. 11 and under, 12-13, 14-15, 16 and over for Levels 5-9.
 - ii. There may be collapsing of age groups in the case of only a few competitors for Levels 5-9. The meet referee must be aware if age groups will be collapsed.
 - iii. Level 10, JE 12-18 and JE 13-19 have no age groups.

- g. Penalties for Falsification of Documentation Concerning Age
 - i. Loss of award for self and partner(s).
 - ii. Public announcement of any changes in placement of awards.
 - iii. Score not to be used for team score.
 - iv. Athlete and partner(s) not allowed to compete the remainder of that competitive year.

2. Event Restrictions

- a. An athlete may compete in any event only once in any competition. (Exception: Levels 5 and 6.)
- b. Athletes who compete at a level three times in the present or previous season or a combination of the two AND received qualifying scores, may NOT compete subsequently at a lower level with the same partner(s) in the same event. Declaration of level is made by submitting a completed Competition Entry Form. If a group does not receive a qualifying score, it does not count towards the number of meets competing at that level.

3. Club Mobility

Although an athlete may change clubs at will, competing for team score is controlled. If he/she has competed for one club in the competitive season and then changes club affiliation, he/she may not compete for team score for any club for the rest of the competitive season.

4. International Assignments

Athletes who are representing Team USA in international competition and who have level mobility problems or concerns may petition the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee for consideration in this matter. Club representation in international competition does not qualify pair/groups for this petition process. The USA Acrobatics program restricts international club participation to those selected at selection events or receipt of invitation by USA Gymnastics.

5. Resident Foreign Athlete Regulations

- a. Resident foreign athlete is defined as an athlete without United States citizenship residing in and training at a club in the US and holding a current USA Gymnastics athlete membership.
- b. USA Gymnastics recognizes the positive benefits of having foreign athletes who are residing in the United States participating in its sanctioned competitive events. However, USA Gymnastics has an obligation to observe all rules and regulations regarding the participation of foreign athletes as set forth by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and the Sports Act of 1978.

- c. FIG regulations require a resident foreign athlete to acquire written approval from the gymnastics federation from his/her respective native country (for which he/she holds a passport) before he/she may compete in competitions held in the United States. If a gymnast who is not a U.S. citizen competes without the written permission from his/her national federation, it is a violation of the International Gymnastics Federation's (FIG) regulations. Getting approval from the athlete's native federation is the responsibility of the athlete, and this rule applies to all levels of competition in all five programs (men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline and tumbling, and acrobatic gymnastics). In order to fulfill the FIG requirements foreign athletes must:
 - i. Submit a letter to their native federation requesting permission to compete in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events in the United States. A sample letter can be found in Appendix A-10.
 - ii. The FIG's directory of national gymnastics federations can be found on the FIG website (www.fig-gymnastics.com) under directory.
 - iii. A copy of the letter of approval from the athlete's native federation must be provided to the athlete's club and to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director.
- d. Resident foreign athletes are eligible to compete/participate in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events with full privilege and receive awards at all competitions, including Regional Championships and Junior Olympic National Championships. Duplicate awards are not necessary.
- e. A resident foreign athlete's scores may be included in a club/team score at all levels of competition.
- f. A resident foreign athlete may participate as a member of a training squad or camp.

A foreign athlete, regardless of residency, may not participate as a member of a national team or represent the United States in international competition. Therefore, foreign athletes are not allowed to be members of the AGDT, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, World Age Group Competition, World Championships Team, or other international delegations. USA Gymnastics will verify citizenship before naming a team.

6. Level Mobility

- a. Level Mobility is the general term used for pair/groups to qualify to JE 12-18, JE 13-19, or Senior Elite.
- b. Level Mobility procedures cover skills testing events and through competition qualification.
- c. Level 1-10 Advancement: The coach of Level 1-10 athletes determines when they will move to higher levels. Lower level skills should be successfully performed before

advancement.

- d. Entry into JE 12-18, JE 13-19, and Senior Elite levels is by qualification.
 - e. There are three ways that pair/groups may qualify to compete at a particular level.
 - i. Prior competitive experience by all partners
 - ii. Level Mobility by Competition Experience (Option 1)
 - iii. Level Mobility by Skills Testing (Option 2)
7. All requests for level mobility through competition qualification must be declared in advance to the Level Mobility Coordinator. Diagrams must be turned in to Ronda by the 10 day deadline by the coach/club of the pair/group in question. Turning in the form the day of the competition or requesting a competition be used for level mobility after the event will no longer be allowed.
 8. All questions regarding level mobility will be answered by the Level Mobility Coordinator.
 9. All diagrams for Level Mobility (skills testing or competition) must be turned into the LMC by the appropriate deadlines for review prior to the Level Mobility event. Diagrams must be in hand 10 days prior to event and may be submitted via e-mail. This is in addition to the OTSM for competition qualification.
 10. If an existing pair/group (pair/group with all of the same partners) competed at JE 12-18 or JE 13-19 or Senior Elite during the previous season, the pair/group may begin the current season at the same level. A newly formed pair/group (pair/groups with one or more partner replacements) must begin the season at a level determined by the athletes' previous experience. New pair/groups cannot begin a season above Level 10 unless all partners have competition experience at that level or a higher level. For example, if a trio is comprised of partners who previously competed Level 10, JE 12-18, and Senior Elite, the trio can start the season at Level 10, but no higher. If this trio was formed with partners with experience at JE 12-18, and Senior Elite, the trio could start at JE 12-18, but not higher. They would then need to meet the level mobility requirements in order to advance to a higher level.
1. If an athlete who previously competed at a level lower than Level 10 is included in a new pair/group, the pair/group may still begin the season at level 10. It is possible to move up three levels during the course of the season. Pair/groups may move up at any point in the season with the exception that they must compete at the National Championships at the level at which they qualified.
 2. If a pair/group is not eligible to move to JE 12-18, JE 13-19 or Senior Elite based on previous experience, they must meet the requirements of one of the two level mobility options listed below:
 - A. Option 1: Competition Experience
 1. General Requirements for Qualification through Competition
 1. Qualification is valid only if conducted at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned competition, following the rules outlined in the Junior Olympic Code of Points

for Acrobatics Gymnastics.

2. All participants (athletes, coaches, judges, and meet directors) must be current professional members in good standing with USA Gymnastics.
3. Before the athletes may compete or skills test at the next level, the competition must be concluded and proper documentation filed within the appropriate deadlines noted on the Competition Report Form and Level Mobility Report (A-5).

2. Documentation:

- a. Following the level mobility event, all level mobility paperwork must be sent within the stated deadlines (10 days) to the LMC. This would include the Level Mobility Report, form A-5, and all supporting documentation. Supporting documentation includes diagrams from the competition, copy of the official score sheets from the competition, completed difficulty slips from the competition. Once the paperwork is reviewed and approved by the LMC it will then be forwarded to the National Office. The Meet Referee and/or Meet Director will no longer be approving Level Mobility. Their signatures are to verify the event took place and that the paperwork that is submitted is valid. The LMC will be approving all Level Mobility. The coach will be notified upon approval.
 - b. Missing or incomplete paperwork will not be accepted or approved. If all paperwork is not received or paperwork is missing the level mobility event will be deemed invalid. This would also include adhering to stated deadlines noted prior to and after the event.
 - c. The Level Mobility Report (Appendix A-5) must be completed by the coach, including competition results. The form must be signed by the Meet Director and the Meet Referee, verifying the information on the form. The form only needs to be completed if the pair/group successfully completed the level mobility requirements.
3. A pair/group is not required to move to a higher competition level just because they meet the qualification at a level mobility. However, the report must be filed by the deadline regardless in order to verify they have met mobility requirements.
 4. Qualifying from Level 10 to JE 12-18 a pair/group must first compete at least one competition at Level 10 before moving to JE 12-18. At this competition the following requirements must be met:
 1. A pair/group must meet minimum age for the level they are advancing to.
 2. All Level 10 special requirements must be met as outlined in the current USA JO Code of Points.
 3. Difficulty values must be met for each routine –V55 Balance; V55 Dynamic.

4. A combined score (execution and artistry) of 15.00 per routine. This would include balance and dynamic routines only.
 5. If the pair or group requires a coach to stand on the floor or provide assistance during an exercise, the exercise cannot be used to meet the qualification requirements. No SR or difficulty value will be given.
 6. If all of the above conditions are met, the pair/group may compete JE 12-18 at their next competition.
 7. Petitions will not be accepted to meet level mobility requirements for any reason.
5. Qualifying from JE 12-18 to JE 13-19 by Competition
- a. A pair/group must meet age for the level they are advancing to.
 - b. A pair/group must first compete at least one competition as JE 12-18. At this competition the following requirements must be met:
 - c. All JE 12-18 special requirements must be met.
 - d. Minimum difficulty value must be met for each routine: V80 Balance; V70 Dynamic.
 - e. They must earn a combined score (execution and artistry) of 15.50 per routine. This would include balance and dynamic routines only. Combined routine does not apply to level mobility but must be performed.
 - f. If the pair or group requires a coach to stand on the floor or provide assistance during an exercise, the exercise cannot be used to meet the qualification requirements. No SR or difficulty value will be given.
 - g. If all of the above conditions are met, the pair/group may compete at JE 13-19 at their next competition.
 - h. Petitions will not be accepted to meet level mobility requirements for any reason
6. Qualifying from JE 13-19 to Senior Elite by Competition
- a. A pair/group must meet age for the level they are advancing to.
 - b. A pair/group must first compete at least one competition as JE 13-19. At this competition the following requirements must be met:
 - c. All JE 13-19 special requirements must be met.
 - d. Maximum difficulty value must be met for each routine: V120 Balance; V110 Dynamic.
 - e. They must earn a combined score (execution and artistry) of 16.00 per routine. This would include balance and dynamic routines only. Combined routine does not apply to level mobility but must be performed.

- f. If the pair or group requires a coach to stand on the floor or provide assistance during an exercise, the exercise cannot be used to meet the qualification requirements. No SR or difficulty value will be given.
- g. If all of the above conditions are met, the pair/group may compete at the Senior Elite level at their next competition.
- h. Petitions will not be accepted to meet level mobility requirements for any reason

G. Option 2: Skills Testing

1. General Requirements for Skills Testing

- 1. Skill Testing may take place at any point throughout the season.
- 2. Facility and equipment used for testing must ensure the safety of all participants.
- 3. Skills testing may be held the day prior to competition, the day after competition or at another time from competition. Skills testing can also be held on a day of competition if the testing takes place following the end of the competition for that day, so as not to interrupt or delay the competition.
- 4. No more than two pair/groups may skills test per group of evaluators. A maximum of two hours per testing group (no more than 2 pair/groups) unless pre-approved by the Level Mobility Coordinator.
- 5. All skills testing sessions must be sanctioned. The sanction for skills testing can be obtained through USA Gymnastics Member Services. Skills testing may be sanctioned in conjunction with another clinic or competition for no additional sanction fee (additional sanction days may be required, see above).
- 6. A pair/group may only skills test once per sanction.
- 7. All participants (athletes, coaches, evaluators, and testing coordinators) must be current professional members in good standing with USA Gymnastics.
- 8. Testing must be completed and approved (JE 12-18, JE 13-19, Senior Elite) and proper documentation must be filed before athletes may compete or test at the next level.
- 9. All skills testing must be filmed.

2. Eligibility to Skills Test

- a. To ensure pair/groups are eligible to test to the next competitive level, the Level Mobility Coordinator must verify eligibility of each JE 12-18 and higher pair/group prior to skills testing. (no verification is required for athletes testing to JE 12-18). Coaches must submit the pair/groups current competitive level, USA Gymnastics number, date of birth, and testing level to

the LMC via email. Eligibility will be verified and communicated back to the coach within three (3) days.

3. Tariff Sheets for Skills Testing

- a. One copy of each tariff sheet (one per exercise) must be submitted to Level Mobility Coordinator, to be reviewed and approved prior to the testing event. Tariff sheets must list the pair/group and individual skills to be performed during the testing. Pair/groups will not receive testing credit for skills not included on the tariff sheet.
- b. Tariff sheets must be submitted to the LMC and the lead evaluator, in-hand, 10 days prior to the skills testing date. Late tariff sheets are not accepted. If tariff sheets are not in-hand per the deadline, pair/groups are ineligible to skills test.
- c. Changes to the tariff sheets can be made up to 3 days in advance. Copies should be sent to the Level Mobility Coordinator and the Lead Evaluator. After that, only a minor change form is allowed up to 1 hour before testing begins. Be aware that last minute changes are not approved by the Level Mobility Coordinator and could affect the validity of the testing if it changes the difficulty value or special requirements.
- d. In addition, it is the coaches' responsibility to bring two extra copies for the other two evaluators.
- e. All skills testing must now begin with tumbling. In addition, the maximum deduction for individual elements (tumbling) is only -0.3 per element, per partner. The maximum deduction remains -0.5 for pair/group skills.
- f. Minor changes can be made to the tariff sheets one (1) hour before the start of testing. Minor Tariff Sheet Form is to be submitted to the lead evaluator. Once testing begins, no additional changes can be made to the tariff sheets, including adding or modifying elements.
- g. Rules for completion of the tariff sheets apply according to tariff sheet deadlines listed in the Junior Olympic Code of Points.

4. Skill Evaluators

- a. Three (3) evaluators are required.
- b. The following are on the approved list to use as Lead Evaluators: Selena Peco, Ronda Francis, Tonya Case, Marie Annonson, Ivaylo Katsov, Vladi Vladev and Sarah Thomas. One of the above must serve as the lead evaluator. The two (2) remaining evaluators may be one (1) judge and one(1) coach OR two (2) judges.
- c. Evaluator judges must be unaffiliated and hold a current Regional or higher rating within the USA Gymnastics – Acrobatic Gymnastics Program.

- d. Evaluator coaches are coaches who have coached Level 9 or above athletes at National Championships. Evaluator coaches must be unaffiliated.
- e. In addition to qualified judge and coach evaluators, the Program Committee may establish a list of other qualified evaluators. Individuals from this approved list may fill a judge or coach slot.
- f. Exception: If an unaffiliated, qualified coach evaluator does not reside in your state/region, three qualified judge evaluators may be used for skills testing.
- g. Up to one (1) evaluator – may be affiliated with the athletes testing. If there is an affiliated evaluator, the testing must be filmed, and a copy of the film be sent to the LMC for approval within 10 days of the testing. After reviewing the film, the LMC will pass or fail the testing.
- h. The Testing Coordinator is responsible for securing the lead evaluator and the 2 additional coach/judge evaluators. These names must be turned in for approval to the Level Mobility Coordinator, Ronda Francis, 10 days prior to the testing.
- i. The LMC is responsible for verifying that all tariff sheets are correct, that the skills testing process was conducted according to the rules and that all documentation is completed properly.

5. Fees for Skills Testing

- a. The Lead Evaluator will be paid \$30 per pair/group. The other two skill evaluators will be paid \$25 per pair/group for their services.
- b. Additional expenses of the host are to be covered by a testing/clinic fee charged by the host. This fee must be announced to any participants when invitations are issued for this event.

6. Documentation for Skills Testing

- a. On one copy of the tariff sheets, the Lead Evaluator marks each element as successfully completed or no credit. Each tariff sheet must be signed by all of the evaluators.
- b. The Skills Testing Coordinator is responsible for filing all forms by the specified deadlines. Testing Coordinators must be professional members of USA Gymnastics.
- c. Within 10 days of testing, or prior to the pair/group's next competition at the higher level if that occurs sooner, all level mobility paperwork must be sent within the stated deadlines (10 days) to Ronda. This would include the Level Mobility Report, form A-5, and all supporting documentation. Supporting documentation includes diagrams from the skills testing with notations from the event on them. Once the paperwork is reviewed and approved by the LMC it will then be forwarded to the National Office. The Testing Coordinator or

Lead Evaluator will no longer be approving Level Mobility. Their signatures are to verify the event took place and that the paperwork that is submitted is valid. Ronda will be approving all Level Mobility. The coach will be notified upon approval.

- d. Missing or incomplete paperwork will not be accepted or approved. If all paperwork is not received or paperwork is missing the level mobility event will be deemed invalid. This would also include adhering to stated deadlines noted prior to and after the event.
7. Pair/groups must wear competition-type attire and hair must be pulled back from the face during the skills testing process. Partners' attire need not match, but it must meet the rules for competition attire. No biker shorts for girls.
8. The elements to be performed during the skills testing process are optional. Coaches and athletes may choose elements to meet the stated requirements and restrictions.
9. Successful completion of an element is defined as an element which would receive difficulty credit. An element is not successfully completed if it receives a short hold of any duration, a deduction for early completion or a fall, and/or more than 0.5 in technical deductions.
 - a. A maximum of five (5) attempts is allowed per element.
 - b. The pair/group must successfully complete each element three (3) times.
 - c. The evaluators must agree unanimously that the element attempted was successfully completed.
 - d. An element attempt is not successfully completed if the coach spots or provides assistance during the element.
 - e. To successfully pass an element, deductions for pair/groups skills cannot exceed -.05. Each pair/group skill is evaluated separately. Individual tumbling elements cannot exceed -.03 per element, per partner.
10. The skills testing process is considered valid if the following conditions are met. If any one or more of the conditions are not met, the testing attempt cannot be used for level mobility.
 - a. The proper process is followed:
 - i. All evaluators are in agreement that the pair/group met the stated requirements for level mobility (i.e. difficulty and special requirements within the allowed number of attempts); and
 - ii. The proper documentation is filed within the prescribed time limit.
11. Qualifying from to JE 12-18 by Skills Testing
 - a. Required minimum difficulty value is V50 for the balance exercise and V50

for the dynamic exercise. This difficulty value is the sum of the value for the successfully performed elements during the testing process. This value is for pair/group elements only and does not include individual elements.

- b. Balance Requirements and Restrictions
- c. Pairs - must show a minimum of six (6) pair balance elements of minimum V1, of which three (3) must be static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of eight (8) elements. Elements are counted according to the 2014 season, not the new counting of elements introduced in January, 2015.
- d. Groups – must show a minimum of two (2) separate pyramids each from a different category, of which one must be a minimum V12 (work of top + base). Must show three (3) static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of four (4) pyramids.
- e. All JE 12-18 special requirements for skill testing must be met as outlined in the JO Code of Points. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
- f. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs, women’s groups, and men’s groups listed in the Code of Points.
- g. No Category 1 individual elements are required to be shown

12. Dynamic Requirements and Restrictions

- a. Must show a minimum of six (6) pair or group dynamic elements of minimum V1, with maximum of eight (8) elements; of which two (2) must be catches. Elements are counted according to the 2014 season, not the new counting of elements introduced in January, 2015.
- b. All JE 12-18 special requirements for skill testing must be met as outlined in the JO Code of Points. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
- c. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs and groups listed in the Junior Olympic Code of Points.
- d. Tumbling requirement: each athlete must perform one (1) Category 2 salto in a series.
- e. Linking is allowed for level mobility skills testing. The links do not count in the number of elements performed however, they will receive difficulty credit. All execution errors apply.

13. Qualifying from JE 12-18 to JE 13-19 by Skills Testing

- a. Required minimum difficulty value is V90 Balance and V70 Dynamic. This difficulty value is the sum of the value for the successfully performed elements during the testing process. This value is for pair/group elements only and does not include individual elements.
- b. Balance Requirements and Restrictions

- i. Pairs - must show a minimum of six (6) pair balance elements of minimum V1, of which three (3) must be static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of eight (8) elements. Elements are counted according to the 2014 season, not the new counting of elements introduced in January, 2015.
 - ii. Groups – must show a minimum of two (2) separate pyramids each from a different category, of which one must be a minimum V12 (work of top + base). Must show three (3) static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of four (4) pyramids.
 - iii. All 13-19 special requirements must be met. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
 - iv. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs, women’s groups, and men’s groups listed in the Code of Points.
 - v. No Category 1 individual elements are required to be shown.
- c. Dynamic Requirements and Restrictions
- i. Must show a minimum of six (6) pair or group dynamic elements of minimum V1, with maximum of eight (8) elements; of which two (2) must be catches
 - ii. All 13-19 special requirements must be met. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
 - iii. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs and groups listed in the Code of Points.
 - iv. Tumbling requirement: each athlete must perform one (1) Category 2 salto in a series.

14. Qualifying from JE 13-19 to Senior Elite by Skills Testing

- a. Required minimum difficulty value is V110 Balance and V90 Dynamic. This difficulty value is the sum of the value for the successfully performed elements during the testing process. This value is for pair/group elements only and does not include individual elements.
- b. Balance Requirements and Restrictions
 - i. Pairs - must show a minimum of six (6) pair balance elements of minimum V1, of which three (3) must be static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of eight (8) elements. Elements are counted according to the 2014 season, not the new counting of elements introduced in January, 2015.
 - ii. Groups – must show a minimum of two (2) separate pyramids each from a different category, of which one must be a minimum V12 (work of top +

base). Must show three (3) static holds of three-second duration. Maximum of four (4) pyramids.

- iii. All Senior Elite special requirements must be met. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
 - iv. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs, women's groups, and men's groups listed in the Code of Points.
 - v. No Category 1 individual elements are required to be shown.
- c. Dynamic Requirements and Restrictions
- i. Must show a minimum of six (6) pair or group dynamic elements of minimum V1, with maximum of eight (8) elements; of which two (2) must be catches. Elements are counted according to the 2014 season, not the new counting of elements introduced in January, 2015.
 - ii. All Senior Elite special requirements must be met. One element may fulfill multiple requirements.
 - iii. There must be compliance with the restrictions for pairs and groups listed in the Code of Points.
 - iv. Tumbling requirement: each athlete must perform one (1) Category 2 salto in a series.

SECTION EIGHT COMPETITIVE STRUCTURES

A. Events

1. Women's Pairs, Men's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Women's Group, and Men's Group.
2. In Mixed Pairs, the base must be male and the top female. (Exception: Levels 4 and 5, age 11 and under.)

B. Types of Competition

1. Competitions may be for individual pair/groups, for teams, or for individual pair/groups and teams.
2. Special Meets: Invitational, conference, and international meets may be organized but are not involved in the process to qualify to higher level meets. These special meets are to be guided by the rules contained in this document and the Code of Points.

C. Participation Requirements of Competitions

1. Pre-Team Levels 1-3 are pre-competition training levels. It is possible to host local meets at these levels, but they are basically for training only.
2. Level 5 may be contested at the local, state, and regional levels. Levels 6 through Elite may be contested at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
3. Local Meets
 - a. Any properly registered athlete in good standing may enter a sanctioned local meet. However, local meets may be invitational in nature.
 - b. A minimum of two sanctioned local meets at which qualifying scores are earned are required to advance to the State Championships.
4. State Championships
 - a. Any athlete who has successfully competed at the local level two or more times and earned qualifying scores may enter the State Championships.
 - b. An athlete must compete at State Championships in his/her state in order to advance to the Regional Championships. He/she may compete in additional State Championships as desired or as needed to earn a qualifying score. An athlete's state is determined by the location of the club for which he/she competes.
 - c. Athletes may earn qualifying scores at any State Championships for advancement to the Regional Championships, National Championships.
 - d. Pair/groups must compete at the State Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying competitions.

5. Regional Championships

- a. An athlete who has successfully competed at the state level may advance to Regional Championships.
- b. An athlete must compete at Regional Championships in his/her region in order to advance to the National Championships, He/She may compete in additional Regional Championships as desired or needed to earn a qualifying score. An athlete's region is determined by the location of the club for which he/she competes.
- c. Athletes may earn a qualifying score at any Regional Championships for advancement to the National Championships.
- d. Pair/groups must compete at Regional Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying competition.

NOTE: JE 12-18, JE 13-19 and Senior Elite pair/groups may choose to attend either State or Regional Championships. However, they must earn a qualifying score at State or Regional Championships in order to advance to National Championships.

6. National Championships (L6-10)

- a. L6-10 pair-groups must attend both the State and Regional Championships and earn a qualifying score to compete at National Championships. It is acceptable to earn a qualifying score to the National Championships at State or Regional Championships.
- b. Athletes must compete at the National Championships at the level at which they qualified.
- c. Pair/groups must compete at the National Championships with the same partner(s) as in their qualifying meet.

7. Qualifying Scores

- a. Levels 5 has no qualifying scores for local or state competitions.
- b. Level 8 and 9 – Pair/groups must compete a balance and dynamic exercise. Score is a combined score from both routines.
- c. JE 12-18, JE 13-19 & Senior Elite – Pair-groups must compete a balance, dynamic, and combined exercise. Score is a combined score from all three routines.
- d. A pair/group competing internationally within 10 days of a local, state or regional competition may use their international scores in replacement for that local, state or regional competition.

	Qualifying Score for State Champ.	Qualifying Score for Regional Champ.	Qualifying Score for Nationals
Level 5	-	-	-
Level 6	-	14.0	15.0
Level 7	19.0	20.0	22.0
Level 8	39.0	41.0	46.0
Level 9	39.0	41.0	46.0
Level 10	39.0	41.0	46.0
JE/12-18	60.0	61.0	66.0
JE/13-19	61.0	62.0	66.0
Elite	61.0	63.0	66.0

D. Preliminary Competition

1. If at any competition, there are 15 or more entries in one level and age group, a preliminary elimination will be held:

Preliminary Competition				
15-19 pair-groups	20-24 pair-groups	25-29 pair-groups	30-49 pair-groups	50+ pair-groups
6 pair-groups to finals	8 pair-groups to finals	2 groups: 12-15 entries; 5 pair-groups go to finals from	2 groups: each 15-25 entries; 6 pair-groups go to finals from each	Divide into 3 groups: 15-16 per group: 6 pair-groups go to finals from each

		each group	group	group
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2. The number of pair-groups equals those that are listed on the initial competitive schedule from which information is sent to coaches. Later "scratches" will not affect the previously announced number of entries which advances to finals.
3. The preliminary competition score is not carried over into final competition.
4. Level 6 through 7 athletes compete a combined routine in finals competition. L8 and L9 athletes will compete one routine of their choosing in finals competition, either balance or dynamic. JE 12-18, JE 13-19 and Senior Elite athletes will compete Combined during the finals.
5. Order of competition for finalists is by draw. The draw may be computer generated and/or personal coaches of the qualifying pair-groups will draw their places themselves as soon after preliminary competition as possible. If finalist is by draw, the highest score draws first and so forth down the scores.
6. If there is a tie for last place, all entries at that score will be allowed to advance.

E. Petitioning Process

1. General procedures for petitions for all Acrobatic Gymnastics competitions
 - a. Any pair/group who has not fully participated in the qualifying process may submit a petition for the reasons stated below.
 - b. Consideration to enter the next stage of competition if the specified conditions are met.
 - c. Petitions are not accepted for the level mobility process for any reason.
2. Petitions may be considered for the following reasons:
 - a. Injury
 - b. Illness
 - c. Family emergency (i.e. death, serious illness, natural disaster, requirements of business or employer).
 - d. No qualifying meet available.
3. Petitions are submitted on the specified form by the pair/group's coach. (See Petition Form in Appendix A-9)
 - a. Petitions must be postmarked within one week following the last qualifying event. (i.e. for Regional Championships, petitions must be submitted to the RAM postmarked within one week following the last State Championships competition.) Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

4. Petitions must be accompanied by all relevant documentation which includes:
 - a. Evidence of pair/group's qualification to compete at the next stage of competition (including any of the following)
 - a. Copies of original score sheets for score verification
 - b. Video of pair/group in competition situation
 - c. Complete tariff sheets documenting the pair/group skills
5. Physician's statement
 - a. Must be written by a licensed physician
 - b. Must contain a date of injury or illness
 - c. Must contain a diagnosis of injury or illness
 - d. Must contain a date for clearance to return to acrobatic gymnastics participation.
 - e. All medical documentation must be submitted on official letterhead of the treating physician.
 - f. Medical documentation is subject to verification by the USA program Physician.
6. Petitions to State Championships and Regional Championships
 - a. Must be submitted to the Regional Administrative Member for decision by the Regional Administrative Committee.
 - b. Written notification of decision will be given to the coach within two weeks of petition receipt.
 - c. Petition appeals can be made to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee, via the Program Director for State and Regional Championships. Copies of the original petition and corresponding documentation as well as the written decision from the Regional Administrative Member must be submitted.
7. Petitions to National Championships
 - a. Must be submitted to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Manager for decision by the Program Committee.
 - b. Written notification of decision will be given to the coach within two weeks of petition receipt.
 - c. Athletes must have fully competed at a State or Regional Championships with the same partners and must have met qualification scores for Junior Olympic National Championships.
8. Junior Olympic, Junior National, Senior National Team or International Assignment Petition
 - a. Petition requirements and procedures onto a respective National Team or

international delegations are specified as part of the selection criteria.

F. General Regulations

1. All acrobatic gymnastics meets must be sanctioned through USA Gymnastics.
2. Each state and region must determine the competition schedule at the start of the competition season. Because of geographic distance or special circumstances a state can petition to have two state meets. Petitions should be made at the beginning of the competition season to the National Office for consideration by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee.
3. Because of size or other special circumstances, a state may choose to combine their State Championships with another state in their region.
4. Because of size or other special circumstances, a region may choose to combine their Regional Championships with another region.
5. Regional Championships must be held at least four weeks prior to National Championships. Deviations to this requirement should be approved through the national office.
6. Judges at all sanctioned local, state and regional competitions must be assigned by the Regional Judges Coordinator.
7. At National Championships and other national-level competitions, the CJPs and Difficulty Judges are assigned by the Meet Referee and the National Technical Committee Chair. Panel judges are assigned by National Technical Chairman.
8. The most recent rules and supplements are published and distributed by posting online at http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/acro/pages/technical_updates.php. Updates and corrections to Acrobatic Gymnastics Junior Olympic Code of Points will be effective immediately. Clarifications to the Code of Points and updates to the FIG Tables of Difficulty are effective immediately unless otherwise noted in italics.
9. Entry fee refunds for Locals and State Championships are the host clubs decision. Their intent to allow refunds or not should be posted in their invitation.
10. Entry fees for Regional Championships are not refundable within ten days notice prior to the meet. The request must meet one of the following criteria: injury, illness, family emergency, qualifying scores not earned with proper documentation. The refund policy for national-level competitions is set forth in the entry information.
11. All athletes are to be organized into events by draw within their level/age group.
12. Athletes who compete outside of their assigned order for any reason lose the chance to win an award at the competition. Scores will still count towards qualification.
13. Upon request, coaches may review tariff sheets of all competitors before competition during a coaches' tariff sheet review session.

14. The skills review at the annual National Judging Clinic will clarify how developmental skills are to be executed for that year.

15. Character of Competitions

a. Three Day Meets

- i. Competition 1 is preliminary competition during which competitors perform their balance exercises. The order of competition is by draw.
- ii. Competition 2 is preliminary competition during which competitors perform their dynamic exercises. The order of competition is by a different draw from Competition 1.
- iii. Competition 3 consists of the combined exercise. Only those competitors who have performed in Competitions 1 and 2 are eligible to compete in Competition 3.
- iv. Scores from Competitions 1, 2, and 3 determine the event champion. (e.g. Mixed Pair Champion)
- v. Competitors in Competition 3 perform in reverse order of their scores from Competitions 1 and 2, the lowest score going first, except for the top six places that perform by draw.
- vi. Competition 4 is exercise finals for Competition 1, and Competition 5 is exercise finals for Competition 2. The top six entries in each preliminary competition advance to finals. The scores from Competition 4 and those from Competition 5 determine the exercise champions (e.g. Mixed Pair Balance Champion or Mixed Pair Dynamic Champion). The order of the competitors in Competitions 4 and 5 is by draw.
- vii. The draws for Competitions 3, 4, and 5 are performed by the finalists, top score drawing first, next score drawing second, and so forth.
- viii. In two day meets, Competitions 1 and 2 are performed on Day 1 and Competition 3 is performed on Day 2.
- ix. In one-day meets, Competitions 1, 2, and 3 are performed in one day.
- x. JE 13-19 athletes are mixed by random draw with Senior Elite athletes during Competitions 1 and 2. They are mixed with Senior Elites in Competitions 3, 4, and 5 following the rules detailed above for Senior Elites.
- xi. JE 12-18 athletes will perform no more than three exercises. They will not participate in Competitions 4 and 5.

G. Scoring

1. The total score is the score before any penalties by the CJP and/or Difficulty Judges are made, and is shown by the formula: Total Score for performance = A Score + D Score + E Score

2. The CJP totals all the penalties and deducts them from the Total Score. This is shown by the formula: Final Score = Total Score – Penalties
3. A pair/group's all-around score is the sum of the final exercise scores for each exercise they perform (Levels 5-7 have one exercise; Levels 8-10 have two exercises; JE 12-18, JE 13-19, and Senior Elite have three exercises).
4. The Difficulty Judge for Levels 5-7 determines the difficulty of the exercise as performed and uses that number as the difficulty score.
5. The Difficulty Judge for Levels 8 and above totals all difficulty of an exercise that has been submitted on the tariff sheet and performed in the exercise and finds the difficulty score from the appropriate chart.
6. The Execution Judge determines the execution faults to the nearest 0.1 and subtracts these from 10.0. When there are two or three execution scores, the scores are averaged. When there are four execution scores, the high and low scores are dropped and the two middle scores are averaged.
7. The Artistry Judge determines the artistry faults to the nearest 0.1 and subtracts these from 10.0. When there are two or three artistry scores, the scores are averaged. When there are four artistry scores, the high and low scores are dropped and the two middle scores are averaged.
8. The difference in the marks of the execution judges or the artistry judges, called the range of scores, may not exceed 0.5 if the average is below 9.0. The range must not exceed 0.3 if the average is 9.0 or above.
9. If the range of scores is exceeded, the CJP calls the panel together to resolve the situation. If the CJP cannot persuade the panel to come to an agreement, he/she shall turn to the Superior Jury or the Jury of Appeals that will decide the final mark.
10. The final mark for the exercise is displayed to the nearest 0.001 without rounding.

SECTION NINE COMPETITION OFFICIALS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. General Information

- A. Judging officials include the Jury of Appeal, Meet Referee, Chair of Judges Panel (CJP), Difficulty Judge, Artistry Judges and Execution Judges for the separate events. A secretary, technical workers, and medical personnel aid them.
- B. Affiliation of Judges
 - a) Affiliation is defined as:
 - 1. The immediate family of the athlete;
 - 2. An owner or paid employee of the athlete's club;
 - 3. A team member; or
 - 4. Coach of the athlete or immediate family member of coach.
 - b) A parent is affiliated to the club to which his/her child belongs.
 - c) An athlete or the immediate family of an athlete in a different sport at a club is not considered affiliated with the acrobatic gymnastics team.
 - d) An affiliated judge may be assigned as a panel judge but not as CJP.
 - e) No more than one judge with the same affiliation may be assigned per panel, when possible.
 - f) These restrictions shall apply to all competitions but local meets.
- C. If the above restrictions cannot be met, the host committee for the competition must petition for a waiver to the National Technical Chairman.
- D. At National Championships the National Technical Committee Chairman will assign CJP and DJ positions and set panels. Judges are invited determined by the overall performance per the judges' analysis at Regional Championships.

2. Meet Director

- A. The Meet Director is responsible for the organization and conduct of the competition.
- B. He/She must take and pass a Meet Director Certification exam showing that he/she knows the rules and has the capacity to organize and conduct competitions before applying for a competition sanction and shall be a current professional member including background check and safety certification.
- C. The Meet Director should have no other responsibilities during the competition except overseeing the meet.
 - a) The position includes the following duties:
 - 1. Give advance notice of the meet to eligible clubs: not less than a month for local and state meets and three months for Regional Championships.
 - 2. Plan the competition, obtain a sanction, ensure the safety of the

- competition equipment and site, and notify coaches of the schedule of competition.
3. Work with the Regional Judges Coordinator to contract judges for the meet. Communicate meet information, including dates, times, location, directions, schedule of competition, etc. with the assigned judges for the competition. The Regional Judges' Coordinator is responsible for judging and panel assignments for competitions within the region.
 4. Check that all athletes, coaches, and officials are members in good standing with USA Gymnastics - Acrobatic Gymnastics and that they comply with the rules. Access to the necessary membership information is available online at www.usa-gymnastics.org/membership/.
 5. Publish the tariff sheet deadline submittal dates in coordination with the regional chair.
 6. He/She must print out, organize and distribute tariff sheets to the meet referee, DJ and CJP at the beginning of the competition. He/She shall verify that the tariff sheets have been uploaded by the due dates and are not changed less than 3 days out.
 7. Assist in the channeling of inquiries and appeals between the coaches and the Meet Referee.
 8. Ensure that scores are correctly recorded and awards are correctly distributed.
 9. Send to the Acrobatic Gymnastics National Office properly prepared report forms by the designated deadlines-a head tax per athlete entered in the competition must accompany the Competition Report Form (see Appendix for updated form with price increases) sent to the National Office. Send meet results to the appropriate offices: the Acrobatic Gymnastics National Office and the Regional Administrative Member.
 10. Send meet results to all clubs that paid entry fees.

3. Technical Support

- A. Timekeeper- works in close proximity to the CJP and times the duration of the exercises and reports this information to the CJP. Must be the Meet Referee for levels 8 and above. May be a panel judge, line judge or volunteer for level 7 and below. Minimum age is 16.
- B. Line Judge - sits at the far corner of the mat from the CJP and signals if there is a boundary fault.
- C. Runner- takes the marked score sheets of the panel judges to the CJP and then to the Scorekeeper.

- D. Scorekeeper- accepts the judges' scores, records them, and determines the final score, which is displayed at once and then posted as soon as possible. The Head Scorekeeper may be assisted by a staff and may use computers for the record keeping. There must be a backup to any computer scoring. The Head Scorekeeper obtains the CJP's signature on the official master score sheet at the end of the competition. Minimum age is 16.
- E. Secretary of the Competition- is responsible for registration forms and clerical work and assists the Meet Director as requested.
- F. Medical personnel - are responsible for first aid for injuries, for follow-up on further aid if needed, and for written records of the injury. They must comply with the guidelines set up by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee.

4. Meet Referee

- A. The Meet Referee is the overall superior judge of the competition.
- B. The Meet Referee must conform to the following regulations:
 - a) Should not be affiliated whenever possible.
 - b) Should not serve as CJP for a panel unless necessary.
 - c) Must be a National Superior Judge or higher for national-level competition, must be a National Judge or higher for regional competition, must be a Regional Judge or higher for state competition, and must be a State Judge or higher for local competition. Assistant Meet Referee will be assigned by the National Technical Chair at the National Championships.
- C. MR reserves the right to change data entry or mathematical error and post the correct score outside of the 15 minute petition window. The coach receives a new 15 minute window to review the decision once the change is made.
- D. The position includes the following duties:
 - a) Review tariff sheets through the Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM) submitted by coaches and evaluate them prior to a competition. Oversee the CJP and the Difficulty Judge as they evaluate the tariff sheets prior to the competition as well.
 - b) Collect information regarding deficiencies with tariff sheets and immediately inform the coach and the other judges concerned (i.e. CJP and/or DJ). Correct tariff sheets are ultimately the responsibility of the coach, however.
 - c) Be responsible for the conduct of the judges.
 - d) Settle controversies regarding the rules.
 - e) With the assistance of the Meet Director, receive appeals from coaches and deal directly with the judging panels concerning those appeals.
 - f) Request video review by the Jury of Appeals, if deemed necessary.
 - g) Act as a member of the Jury of Appeals.
 - h) File a Meet Referee Report within ten days of the meet with the Regional

Technical Committee Chairman and Regional Judges Coordinator.

1. If judges from other regions participate as active judges at the competition, a copy of the Meet Referee Report must also be sent to the Regional Technical Committee Chairman and Regional Judges Coordinator of the respective region(s).

5. Members of the Judges' Panel

A. Organization of the Judging Panel

- a) Minimum for Local Meets: 1 CJP (also throws an execution and an artistry score), 1 Difficulty Judge, 1 Execution Judge, 1 Artistry Judge
- b) Minimum for State and Regional Meets: 1 CJP (also throws both an execution and an artistry score), 1 Difficulty Judge, 2 Execution Judges, 2 Artistry Judges
- c) Required for National Championships and other national-level competitions: 1 CJP (execution score only), 1 Difficulty Judge, 3 Execution Judges, and 3 Artistry Judges. When available 4 Execution and 4 Artistry Judges will be used. In this case, the CJP will not submit an execution score.

B. Chair of Judges' Panel (CJP)

- a) Review tariff sheets through the Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM) submitted by coaches and evaluate them prior to a competition.
- b) Immediately inform the Meet Referee of any deficiencies found in the tariff sheets.
- c) CJP reserves the right to change data entry or mathematical error and post the correct score outside of the 15 minute petition window. The coach receives a new 15 minutes window once the change is made to review the decision.
- d) Is the overall Superior Judge of the panel.
- e) Is responsible for the organization and activity of the judges on the panel including their entry and exit.
- f) Signals the start of the exercise and takes part in its evaluation.
- g) Is responsible for the timekeeper who checks the duration of the exercise.
- h) Determines his/her own execution and artistic scores.
- i) Places his/her own scores with the Secretary of the Panel before receiving the scores from the panel judges.
- j) Works with the Difficulty Judge to complete the Difficulty Slip (see AppendixA-6) used in the Appeals Process.
- k) Checks differences between the judges' marks to be sure they are within the tolerances allowed.
- l) Watches for discrepancies in the judges' evaluations and calls the judges together if necessary to resolve problems.

- m) Takes appropriate CJP deductions from the difficulty score.
- n) Is responsible for the calculation and display of the final score at the panel.
- o) Signs the master score sheet to verify that individual judges' marks are accurately entered.

C. Difficulty Judge

- a) Review tariff sheets through the Online Tariff Sheet Manager (OTSM) submitted by coaches and evaluate them prior to a competition.
- b) Immediately informs the Meet Referee of any deficiencies found in the tariff sheets.
- c) Determines what elements are performed in competition and calculates the difficulty value and score of the exercise.
- d) Works with the CJP to complete the Difficulty Slip (see Appendix A-6) used in the Appeals Process.
- e) On a signal from the CJP, shows the difficulty score and also the total difficulty value for Levels 8-10 and Elite exercises.
- f) Determines short hold deductions.

D. Panel Judge's Rights and Duties

- a) Follow all instructions given by the CJP or at any special seminars for judges of the competition.
- b) Attend seminars and meetings of judges.
- c) Help evaluate exercise tariff sheets if requested to do so by the CJP.
- d) Evaluate the performed exercise in strict accordance with the rules.
- e) May not change his/her mark once it has been registered with the Secretary of the Panel unless the CJP and/or the Jury of Appeals request the judge to reconsider.
- f) If a judge realizes a mathematical mistake after handing in the score, he/she must clear any change of score with the CJP.
- g) Has the right to appeal, in writing, to the Jury of Appeals against unjust actions of the CJP.

E. Procedures of the Judges' Panel

- a) Judges must be seated no less than 1.5 meters (5 feet) apart. They may be seated on one side of the floor.
- b) The height of the competition podium must ensure that the judges, when seated, can clearly see the back line marking of the floor area.
- c) Competitions must be held using open scoring. Judges must show their individual scores or the host must immediately post the individual scores. The difficulty score and total difficulty value (if the competitors are Level 8-10 or Elite) must be shown. The final score must also be shown.

- d) Judges sign the individual scoring forms, certifying that their scores are correctly entered on their individual scoring forms.

6. Jury of Appeals

- A. The Jury of Appeals is the ultimate decision-making body of the competition. Its decisions are final.
- B. The Jury takes action on appeals and other competition controversies not resolved at lower levels.
- C. The Jury may remove any judge for committing flagrant errors in judging.
- D. Composition of the Jury of Appeals
 - a) All Juries must have an odd number of members.
 - b) The Meet Referee(s) and the CJP of the panel to which an appeal has been issued are members of the Jury.
 - c) The Jury of Appeals for national competition must have the following composition:
 - 1. There is a minimum of five members with one of the members being the Program Director. Seven members is optimum.
 - 2. One member is appointed by each of the following committees: National Technical Committee, Junior Olympic Committee, and National Elite Committee. The Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee appoints the remaining members.
 - d) The CJP of the panel involved is a member of the Jury.
 - e) The Meet Referee chairs the Jury.
 - f) The Jury of Appeals at regional, state, and local competitions consists of a minimum of three members and is chaired by the Meet Referee.
 - g) The composition of the Jury of Appeals must be announced before competition begins.

7. Appeal Procedures

- A. The objective of the appeals procedure is to ensure obvious errors in the difficulty score are corrected without causing significant delays in the competition.
- B. Appeals may be made on the basis of the difficulty score, special requirements, height difference, out of bounds, equipment failure, and/or mathematical error only. Other deductions (i.e. overtime, short holds, and fading of music, tariff sheet penalties, elements out of order, min/max difficulty, or forbidden elements) may not be appealed. Execution and artistry scores cannot be appealed.
- C. If a coach wishes clarification of the difficulty score or deductions received by members of his/her own team, he/she may view the Difficulty Slip at the appeals area. The

Difficulty Slip is completed by the CJP and Difficulty Judge and shows skills given/not given credit, missing special requirements, and short holds. There is no fee for this request.

- D. After reviewing the Difficulty Slip, a coach may file an appeal if he/she feels an error was made in an area that is eligible for appeal (see B above).
- E. CJP or MR reserves the right to change data entry or mathematical error and post the correct score outside of the 15-minute petition window. The coach receives a new 15 minutes window once the change is made to review the decision.
 - a) Appeals must meet the following requirements:
 - 1. The coach must submit an appeal in writing (in English) to the Meet Director.
 - 2. The appeal must be filed within 15 minutes of the posting of the last score of the event of that session.
 - 3. A coach may file an appeal concerning members of his/her own team or other teams. However, a coach may not view the Diagram Slip for another team.
 - 4. The appeal must detail the elements that are in question and their values as perceived by the coach.
 - 5. The coach of the athletes having an appeal lodged against them must be notified of the appeal.
 - 6. A fee may be charged for an appeal. In all competitions, the amount of the fee, if any, must be decided before the competition. The amount of the fee for local and state meets is to be decided by the Meet Director but must not exceed \$20. The amount of the fee for regional and national-level competitions will be \$20. If a coach is not satisfied with the CJP's decision to an appeal, the coach can request for the appeal to go to the Jury of Appeals. An additional \$20 fee is required for this second request.
 - b) Resolution of an Appeal
 - 1. The CJP will review the appeal and make a decision of whether to change the original score. The CJP may consult the panel, but video may not be used in this process.
 - 2. If the appeal is not resolved by the CJP to the satisfaction of the coach concerned, he/she may ask for action by the Jury of Appeals. This request must take place within 15 minutes of the return of the appeal to the Appeals Table. An additional \$20 fee is due at the time of the request.
 - 3. Any change by panel of Judges (mathematical in nature) must take place within the 15 minute window of appeals.

4. If an appeal is submitted against another team's athletes and is not resolved by the CJP to the satisfaction of the coach of the affected athletes, he/she may ask for action by the Jury of Appeals (as long as the Jury of Appeals has not already acted on the appeal). This request must take place within 15 minutes of the return of the appeal to the Appeals Table. An additional \$20 fee is due at the time of the request.
5. The Jury of Appeals will review the appeal and video if necessary. There must be clear and conclusive evidence in the appeal or on the video to overturn the decision of the panel.
6. Should an appeal be sustained, an adjustment of the score will be made and the coach will be informed by the Meet Director, who also sees that the corrected score is entered on the official score sheets. There is no change to the execution and/or artistry scores given by the panel. The full fee of the appeal is returned to the coach.
7. If the appeal is denied, the Meet Director or a member of the Jury will notify the coach. The full fee of the appeal is retained by the meet director.
8. The decision of the Jury of Appeals is final.

c) Video Review

1. Video may only be used to determine difficulty score, special requirements, out-of-bounds, or equipment failure. It may be used for timing evaluation if digital timing of the video is possible and difficulty concerns are involved.
2. The Meet Referee or Jury of Appeals initiates its use.
3. The video review must provide clear and conclusive evidence in order to overturn the decision of the judging panel.

SECTION TEN REGULATIONS AFFECTING ATHLETES

1. Competitive Attire

- A. All competitors must be neat and clean in appearance.
- B. Competition attire must be gymnastics in character and design and complement the artistry of an exercise. Attire must be elegant and complement the artistry of the exercise. It should not divert attention from the performance of the athletes nor require adjustments during an exercise.
- C. Partners must wear identical or complementary attire.
- D. Women and girls perform in leotards or one-piece, unitards or leotards with skirts. Tights are allowed. Leotards may be with or without sleeves, but dance style leotards with narrow straps are not allowed. Female athletes may NOT wear shorts of any kind
- E. Men and boys perform in leotards or pullover shirts with gymnastics shorts or long gymnastics trousers or one-piece suits/unitards are allowed.
- F. Dark color (black, navy blue, dark brown, dark red, dark green, and dark purple) legs of trousers, unitards or tights, one-piece suits are allowed only if the color on the leg is broken significantly from the hip to the ankle with a light colored decoration or pattern. The length and type of the fabric covering the legs must be identical on both legs. Only the decoration may be different,
- G. For safety reasons, all attire for men and women must be close fitting, to allow the judges to properly evaluate body lines. Blouson and raglan sleeves are not allowed. Leotards may be sleeveless, but spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- H. Sequins, stones, cummerbunds, and lace must either be integrated into the fabric of the competition attire or attached securely, but any injury occurring as a consequence is the responsibility of the coach and the athlete.
- I. All attire must be modest including the use of proper undergarments. The cut of the leg of the leotard must not go above the iliac crest (hipbone) during any point of the exercise. The back of the leotard must not go below the scapulae (shoulder blades) or the neckline no further than half sternum. Lace and transparent material on the torso must be fully lined.
- J. Competitors may perform with or without footwear such as gymnastic slippers, acrobatic shoes, or socks. Footwear must be clean and in good repair. Footwear must be flesh colored or white. For men, footwear must be worn with pants. However, it is optional to wear footwear with shorts. Partners' footwear need not be the same.
- K. Advertising on competitive attire must be confined to the manufacturer's name or logo and must conform to USA Gymnastics and FIG standards.
- L. Skirts are allowed and must cover but not fall further than the pelvic area over the leotard, unitard or tights. The style of skirt {cut or decoration} is free but the skirt must always fall back on the hips of the gymnast. The look of a ballet tutu is forbidden. The

- skirt must be integrated into the leotard. It may not be removable ,
- M. The following items are forbidden for competition attire:
 - a) Provocative
 - b) Cabaret, bikini, swimsuit styles
 - c) Design or transparency of attire must not allow exposure of undergarments, trunk, navel, or private body parts
 - d) Midriffs are not permitted
 - e) Pictures in the design
 - f) Character outfits (i.e. waiter, sailor)
 - g) Loose clothing, raised attachments, or accessories
 - h) Blouson and raglan sleeves
 - i) Spaghetti straps or the appearance of spaghetti straps
 - N. At any championship meet, all athletes must be in competitive-type (e.g. leotard) attire when on the competition, training or warm-up floor. This rule includes training and warm-up time. Female athletes may not wear shorts during training sessions.
 - O. For International competitions, the identification of the athlete's federation must be clearly visible on competitive attire. This may be woven into the fabric or form part of it design. The size of the emblem is 30 cm squared.

2. Accessories and Aids:

- A. All jewelry, including but not limited to, earrings and studs, watches, bracelets (except medic-alert bracelets), anklets, necklaces, broaches, rings – including wedding bands, nose and navel rings and studs, are not permitted.
- B. Hair clips, slides, barrettes, ribbons, scrunches and bun nets, if worn, must be secure.
- C. Character hair accessories (i.e. tiaras, headbands, feathers, flowers) and scrunches or hair clips with loose pieces are not allowed.
- D. Face painting is not allowed. Make-up must be modest and not for depiction of a theatrical character (i.e. animal or human).
- E. Tattoos must be covered.
- F. Equipment such as belts or head-rolls to aid execution of elements is not allowed. Taping and support bandages must be of neutral color. Any exceptional support, such as a knee brace that is not a neutral color, may be worn without penalty if the federation makes application to the Technical Committee for special permission.

3. Music

- A. Each exercise must be performed to music.
- B. Instrumental music with one or more instruments including special effects and synthesizers is permitted.
- C. Words must not be included with the music during the exercise. Coaches must first be warned in writing with the objectionable lyrics defined. At the second offense, the penalty is 0.5 taken by CJP. If the music has not received a warning or penalty at

- Regional Championships, no deduction may be taken at the National Championships.
- D. Music must be submitted before a meet on a CD that is clearly marked with the competitors' names, club, and the event (balance, dynamic, or combined). Tape cassettes are not allowed.
 - E. Competitors are advised to have duplicate CD's with them in case of loss or damage.
 - F. MP3s may be used as allowed by the meet director. Coach's need to check prior to the start of competition if MP3 music is allowed.
 - G. For all levels, manually turning off or fading the music before the music ends will result in a 1.0 deduction taken by the CJP. If athletes finish their exercise and leave the floor while the music is still playing, the music may then be turned off.

4. Length of Exercises

- A. Exercises have no minimum time limit. Maximum length is 2:00 for Level 8 and 9, 2:30 for all exercises for Levels 10 and above. Maximum length for Levels 7 and below combined exercises is 2:45 minutes.
- B. An exercise is timed from the first movement of any of the partners in the beginning stance to the cessation of the final movement at the end of the exercise.
- C. Athletes may come to the floor to take their start position or exit the floor with artistry, but not with music or choreography. The start position cannot include the building phase of an element of difficulty.
- D. The deduction for any time over the maximum allowed is 0.1 per second taken by the CJP. A 2 second tolerance is allowed, overtime deductions would not begin for a level 8 routine until 2:03 for example. The deduction would be 1 second over. There is a max of .3 that can be taken on exercises levels 5-10. For Jr. and Sr. Elite there is no maximum.

5. Warm-up Procedures

- A. A general warm-up period prior to the beginning of a meet must be provided for the competitors. The warm-up will be held on the competition floor unless a similar floor is also available in the warm-up area.
- B. Large meets must be divided into multiple sessions, each with its own general warm-up. A general warm-up must be 30 minutes minimum and 60 minutes maximum.
- C. A separate warm-up area must be provided at all national competitions. This area will be used for all warm-up sessions.
- D. An additional 3-5 minute warm-up on the competition floor may be provided before each rotation.
- E. When the 3-5 minute warm-ups are performed on the competition surface just prior to competition, meet organizers must limit the numbers of athletes warming up at one time to a maximum of six pair/groups on one floor.

6. Repeating of Exercises

- A. The Meet Referee or CJP may allow athletes to repeat an exercise without penalty if in their opinion the exercise was not performed or was interrupted for a reason beyond the control of the athletes and coach.
- B. If athletes do not start or stop their exercise because the music is incorrect or there is a technical failure, the Meet Referee or CJP has the discretion to allow a restart of the exercise without penalty.
- C. If the athletes do not start or stop because of poor quality or incorrect music, which relates to the responsibility of the athlete or coach, re-start will be at the discretion of the Meet Referee and CJP and will incur a 0.3 penalty, which is deducted by the CJP.
- D. The Meet Referee and CJP will direct the coach if and when the repeat may be done.
- E. It is a requirement to perform the same elements in the repeated exercise as performed on the first attempt or intended to be performed in the original exercise. Otherwise, the repeated exercise will not be scored.
- F. An exercise cannot be repeated once completed with or without music.
- G. There is no other repeating of exercises.

SECTION ELEVEN AWARDS

1. General Regulations

- A. Awards for State Championships, Regional Championships, and National Championships must be ordered from the National Medal Company of USA Gymnastics. Exceptions must be approved by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director and may be made only if awards are donated by state governments, sponsors, etc.
- B. If an award is given in error, the athlete may keep the award. The correct award and title will be given to the correct athlete(s). In this way, the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee guarantees that the right athletes receive the correct awards.
- C. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given, and the next place(s) will be skipped.
- D. Individual awards are determined by the sum of all exercises performed at that level.
- E. At National Championships, medals will be awarded for the first through third place event winners. Awards for fourth through sixth places are also required.
- F. JE 12-18/13-19 and Senior Elite athletes receive All-Around Awards.
- G. JE 12-18/13-19 and Senior Elite divisions receive separate individual awards.
- H. All-Around winners are determined by the sum of scores earned in Competitions 1, 2, and 3.
- I. The awarding of individual exercise (Balance and Dynamic) places is not mandatory at a one or two day meet. At a three-day meet, the scores of Competitions 4 and 5 determine individual exercises winners.

2. Level Awards

- A. Level Awards must be given at National Championships using the criteria outlined below.
- B. Each Regional Administrative Committee, at the region's annual fall meeting, will determine if Level Awards are to be given at State and Regional Championships. If so, the Regional Administrative Committee also determines the criteria used to award the Level Awards. The criteria used for National Championships may be used or the committee can establish its own criteria. Either way, the criteria must be clearly defined in the entry materials for the competition.
- C. Level Awards are not given at local and invitational competitions.
- D. General Regulations for Elite and Junior Olympic Level Awards
 - a) Club Level winners are determined from among all eligible clubs participating in a competition.
 - b) No club entry fee shall be charged participating teams.
 - c) Awards will be given to the first three places in each of the level award categories.
 - d) At the National Championships, separate team awards will be given for each level 6 through JE 12-18 (JE 13-19 and Senior Elite are combined)
 - e) The score for team awards will be figured as follows:
 - 1. Level 6-7 will average the 2 top scores per club in each level.
 - 2. Levels 8-10 will combine balance and dynamic and then take the average of the 2 top scores per club in each level.
 - 3. JE 12-18, JE 13-19 and Senior Elite will combine 1st routine balance, 1st routine dynamic and combined and then take the average of the 2 top scores, per club in each level.
 - 4. Clubs must have at least 2 pair/groups in a level to compete for a level award.
 - 5. If an event and age category has finals, Level points are determined

- by FINAL standings.
6. Level winners are determined by the highest average 2 top scores per level.
 7. The 2 top scores can be taken from the same event in each level.

3. Annual Awards

A. The following Junior Olympic awards are given each year at National Championships:

Award	Award Description	Eligibility	Selection Procedures
Junior Olympic Coach of the Year	Awarded for the highest achievement in Junior Olympic coaching endeavors. Based on performance of his/her athletes the current season.	All coaches with athletes qualified to the National Championships. Limit one coach per club. Coaches who won Regional Coach of the Year are automatically on ballot.	Conducted by written ballot during National Championships. All coaches with athletes qualified to National Championships. Limit one ballot per club.
Rookie Coach of the Year	Awarded to a coach who has less than three years of involvement in the sport for achievements in coaching.	All coaches with athletes qualified to National Championships who has less than three years of coaching experience in acro.	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All coaches with athletes qualified to National Championships. Limit one ballot per club.
Most Improved Team	Team that exhibits the most improvement over previous competition seasons	Any team with 2 or more pair/groups competing at national championships for at minimum the second time.	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Glenn Sundby Award for Outstanding JO Pair/Group Performance*	Outstanding Junior Olympic Pair/Group performance at National Championships.	All athletes participating at the National Championships levels 6-10.	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Junior Olympic Most Original Skill*	Pair/group who performs the most original, unique, or creative skill at National Championships	All pair/groups participating at the National Championships levels 6-10	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Junior Olympic Outstanding Top*	Top exhibiting the most outstanding competitive performance during National Championships	All Tops participating at the National Championships	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Junior Olympic Outstanding Base*	Base exhibiting the most outstanding competitive performance during National Championships	All bases participating at the National Championships	Conducted by written ballot at National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.

* Only one award will be given for all JO levels.

B. The following **Elite** awards are given each year at National Championships:

Award	Award Description	Eligibility	Selection Procedures
Athlete of the Year	Awarded for the highest achievement in athletic endeavors	All current senior national team athletes	Named by Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Director
Sportsperson of the Year	Awarded to the best spokesperson, cheerleader, promoter of Acrobatic Gymnastics	All senior athletes qualified to National Championships	Conducted by written ballot during National Championships. All athletes qualified to National Championships in either age division
Coach of the Year	Awarded for the highest achievement in Elite coaching endeavors. Based on performance of his/her athletes at Nationals and throughout the season.	All coaches with athletes qualified to the National Championships in either age division. Limit one coach per club.	Conducted by written ballot during National Championships. All coaches with athletes qualified to National Championships in either age division. Limit one ballot per club.
Star Service Award	Given for outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program.	All members, volunteers, or others involved with the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program.	Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee Given to one individual per year. May be given at National Championships
Glenn Sundby Award for Outstanding Elite Pair/Group Performance	Outstanding Pair/Group performance at National Championships.	All athletes participating at the National Championships at the 12-18/13-19/Senior level	Conducted by written ballot during National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Most Original Skill Elite	Pair/group who performs the most original, unique, or creative skill at National Championships	All pair/groups participating at the National Championships at the 12-18/13-19/Senior level	Conducted by written ballot during National Championships. All judges judging at National Championships.
Janet VonBargen Awards	Given for outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program as a judge	Any judge for the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program	National Technical Committee

SECTION TWELVE EQUIPMENT AND ARENA

1. Floor

- A. Exercises are performed on a level mat area that is 12 meters by 12 meters square (39'4" by 39'4").
- B. A 1 ¼ inch thick foam pad is the minimum requirement for padding.
- C. A 4" spring or 4" foam cube block floor is required for all state, regional, and national competitions. If local competitions involve only Level 6 and lower levels, the host may petition the appropriate Regional Administrative Committee for a waiver of this requirement.
- D. The competition surface must be covered with a floor exercise mat or carpet. The carpet pile must not be higher than 1 cm. (.4 in.)
- E. The borderlines of 5 cm. (2 in.) width are considered inside the performance area.
- F. For the safety of the athletes, no additional tape may be placed on the surface to mark places for competitors to stand or perform. No markings of any kind to assist performance including chalk may be made on the floor.
- G. Any obstacles such as walls or posts within six feet of the competition floor must be covered with matting during the competition and should be noted in the competition invitation.
- H. The unobstructed ceiling height must be 18 feet above the competition floor for Level 4-9, 20 feet for Level 10 and Elite. Women's Groups and Men's Groups may require additional height. If such is the case, the minimum standard of 25 feet must be used. State and above competition sites must meet these standards. Petitions for exceptions must be sent to the appropriate Regional Administrative Committee for state competitions and to the National Office for regional competitions.
- I. Deviations from normal standards, if permitted above (i.e. obstacles such as walls or posts or lower ceiling height for local competition), must be noted in the competition invitation.
- J. For the safety of the athlete, an air-conditioned unit is, if possible, to be used for State and Regional Championships. Competitions must indicate, in advance, if venue is not air-conditioned.

2. Safety Mat

A safety mat with 20-50 cm. thickness is allowed for Levels 9 and 10, Junior Elite, and Senior Elite Men's Group balance exercise. It must be placed in contact with the perimeter of the floor. It may be left in place or removed if the mat movers do not enter the competitive floor area and do not distract attention away from the performance. Use of a mat for any other levels or exercises is not allowed and if used is penalized (See Code of Points Section 10.6).

SECTION THIRTEEN

NATIONAL TEAM AND INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION POLICIES

1. National Team Policies

- A. The following list of responsibilities of athletes selected for the National Team is provided to:
 - a) Better promote the sport of Acrobatic Gymnastics and the performances of National Team members,
 - b) Ensure that all members of the National Team are subject to the same responsibilities, and
 - c) Provide National Team members with notice of those requirements in advance of their participation on the National Team, per the National Team Handbook and the National Team Plan.
- B. For the reasons stated above, all gymnasts selected to USA Gymnastics Acrobatic Gymnastics National Teams are expected to:
 - a) Participate in required training camps for the duration of the camp and adhere to training schedules and other details related to training as determined by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and the National Elite Committee.
 - b) Meet all prescribed guidelines of appearance for any USA Acrobatic Gymnastics sponsored trip or competition including competitive apparel, travel apparel, personal appearance (including clothing and hair), the wearing of emblems, and the carrying of gymnastics type bags. Variation in travel apparel and shoes, competitive apparel, warm-up suits, shirts, or emblems is not allowed. Team members should not bring along non-uniform items unless instructed to do so by the Head Coach and Team Manager. Violation of team uniform travel dress code will be cause for dismissal from the team.
 - c) Have in their possession a valid and current passport and be prepared to notify the Head Coach, Team Manager, and Senior Program Manager for Acrobatic Gymnastics of their passport number and place and date of issue. Gymnasts must have in their possession current passport style photos for use in visa applications when required.
 - d) Meet all travel schedules. An athlete may only change travel arrangements with the USAG Acrobatic Gymnastics National Office approval. The athlete will assume any additional costs resulting from changes made from scheduled travel itineraries.
 - e) Behave at all times in a manner consistent with their status as representatives of the United States and USA Acrobatic Gymnastics. Athletes are expected to make every effort to cooperate with fellow athletes and team officials, international officials, foreigners, hosts, and other people involved

such as hotel clerks. Complaints of any type must be made initially to the Head Coach and/or Team Manager. Only in the case of a very serious problem should a complaint first be addressed to the Delegation Leader. In no case will an athlete speak directly (other than socially) to a judge, official, or FIG official unless requested to do so by that individual.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches, Delegation Leaders, and Judges for International Competitions

- A. All assignments for athletes, coaches, delegation leaders, and judges as recommended by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Selection Committee with approval by the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Committee and must have final approval of the USA Gymnastics President.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities of Coaches:
 - a) The Head Coach shall be responsible for the performance, training, health, uniforms, and appearance (including travel clothing) of all athletes.
 - b) The Head Coach shall be responsible for the personal conduct of all the team members and shall rigorously enforce the National Team Policies. Conduct includes dress and personal appearance at all times.
 - c) The Head Coach shall instruct the athletes about the requirements of the National Team Policies including appearance, conduct, and adherence to schedules.
 - d) The Head Coach and the Team Manager shall recommend any disciplinary action they deem appropriate, including dismissing an athlete from the team, to the Delegation Leader. In the absence of the Delegation Leader, the Head Coach shall be responsible for disciplinary action.
 - e) The Head Coach shall submit a written report to the USA Gymnastics National Office and the National Elite Committee Chairman no later than ten days after the conclusion of the trip or event. The report shall include the complete results of the event, input on new skills and techniques, pertinent details regarding travel, housing, training, and competition requirements, personal conduct, and any problems encountered. The report shall also include any recommendations for future events and personal observations that the coach may have.
 - f) In the absence of the designated Delegation Leader, the Head Coach is also responsible for the following duties:
 - 1. All athletes reaching their assigned designations regardless of the coach's personal travel itinerary.
 - 2. Financial responsibility for any emergency situations that may arise in route to and from competitions and exhibitions.
 - 3. Accountability for all emergency funds provided to him by the USA Gymnastics National Office.

- C. Duties and Responsibilities of the Delegation Leader - The Delegation Leader selected for any team tour, competition, or exhibition in this nation or abroad shall perform the following duties:
- a) The USA Gymnastics National Office shall initiate all arrangements for passports, visa, shot records, and other necessary travel documents. The Delegation Leader shall be responsible for the follow-up and completion of such documents.
 - b) Travel arrangements are made only through USA Gymnastics National Office. These include tickets, departure dates, flights, etc. Through coordination with the National Office, the Delegation Leader shall be aware of all travel arrangements and assure himself that all athletes involved are aware of the schedules, have the proper tickets, passports, visas, shot cards, and other necessary travel documents in their possession at all times.
 - c) In accordance with USA Gymnastics National Office direction, the Delegation Leader shall assume responsibility for per diem, meals, and other incidental costs.
 - d) The Delegation Leader shall secure from the USA Gymnastics National Office the pins, decals, blazer or uniform emblems necessary for the trip. He shall request such items well in advance of the departure date.
 - e) The Delegation Leader shall submit a final written report to the USA Gymnastics National Office no later than ten days following the conclusion of the tour or event. The report will evaluate travel, housing, coaches, finances, and cooperation in preparation by athletes. This report should also include any general or personal observations the Delegation Leader may have.
 - f) The Delegation Leader shall obtain all schedules, competition results, and other information provided by the organizing committee and submits this information in the final report.
 - g) The Delegation Leader is also responsible for the following duties:
 1. All athletes reaching their assigned designations regardless of the coach's personal travel itinerary.
 2. Financial responsibility for any emergency situations that may arise in route to and from competitions and exhibitions.
 3. Accountability for all emergency funds provided to him or her by the USA Gymnastics National Office.
- D. Duties and Responsibilities of Judges - The judges selected for any team tour, competition, or exhibition in this nation or abroad shall perform the following duties:
- a) In the absence of the Head of Delegation/Head Coach act as Delegation Leader and assume all the listed duties of the Delegation Leader in addition to his/her duties as a judge if assigned by the USA Gymnastics National Office.

- b) Be present at all workouts to score and critique any exercises that the Head Coach requests. The information provided by the judge should be that which is requested by the Head Coach.
 - c) Be present at all technical meetings, take all required courses, and protect the team's interest at all such meetings. Impart all decisions of these meetings to the Head Coach.
 - d) The judge will not act independently of the team. He/she must work closely with the Head Coach and attend all team meetings and briefings. Be a cohesive part of the USA TEAM.
- E. Personal Coaches may be approved to accompany a delegation. These coaches are under the direction of the Head Coach and Head of Delegation.
- a) They must be present at all workouts. He/she must work closely with the Head Coach and Head of Delegation.
 - b) Attend all team meals, meetings and briefings.
 - c) Responsible for submitting correct diagrams for review during training to check accuracy of the athlete's performance against what is drawn on the diagrams. Must have their athletes prepared to run full routines during training in order to review diagrams.
 - d) Responsible for making all corrections to diagrams after review process. Including, turning in the corrected versions at the designated times.
 - e) The personal coach will not act independently of the team.
 - f) Know where your athletes are at all times.
 - g) Meet all prescribed guidelines of appearance for any USA Acrobatic Gymnastics sponsored trip or competition including competitive apparel, travel apparel, personal appearance (including clothing and hair), the wearing of emblems, and the carrying of gymnastics type bags. Variation in travel apparel and shoes, competitive apparel, warm-up suits, shirts, or emblems is not allowed. Team members should not bring along non-uniform items unless instructed to do so by the Head Coach and Team Manager. Violation of team uniform travel dress code will be cause for dismissal from the team.
 - h) Behave at all times in a manner consistent with their status as representatives of the United States and USA Acrobatic Gymnastics Code of Ethics. Coaches are expected to make every effort to cooperate with fellow coaches, athletes and team officials, international officials, foreigners, hosts, and other people involved such as hotel clerks. Complaints of any type must be made initially to the Head Coach and/or Team Manager. Only in the case of a very serious problem should a complaint first be addressed to the Delegation Leader. In no case will a personal coach speak directly (other than socially) to a judge, official, or FIG official unless requested to do so by that individual. Be a cohesive part of USA Team.

- F. Duties and Responsibilities of the Team Manager - The Team Manager selected for any team tour, competition, or exhibition in this nation or abroad shall perform the following duties:
- a) They must be present at all workouts and the competition arena as needed once the competition has begun.
 - b) Attend all team meals, meetings and briefings.
 - c) Work in conjunction with the Head Coach and Head of Delegation to organize and enforce all team schedules.
 - d) Know where the athletes are at all times.
 - e) Responsible to supervise the organization of the athletes on all modes of transportation and in hotel for the duration of the trip.
 - f) Assign individual chaperone's to a group of athletes to supervise at all times for the duration of the trip (including but not limited to: enforcing curfew, nightly room checks, general safety and well being of the athletes).
 - g) Report any issues or concerns that may arise during the assignment immediately to either the Head Coach and/or Head of Delegation.
 - h) Adhere to the USA Gymnastic Code of Ethics. Be a cohesive part of USA Team.
- G. Chaperones may be approved to accompany a delegation. These chaperones are under the direction of the Team Manager.
- a) The must be present at all workouts and the competition arena as needed once the competition has begun.
 - b) Attend all team meals, meetings and briefings.
 - c) Work in conjunction with the Team Manager to enforce all team schedules.
 - d) Know where the athletes are at all times.
 - e) Responsible to supervise athletes on all modes of transportation and in hotel for the duration of the trip, including but not limited to: enforcing curfew, nightly room checks, site-seeing tours, general safety and well being of the athletes).
 - g) Report any issues or concerns that may arise during the assignment immediately to the Team Manager.
 - h) Adhere to the USA Gymnastics Code of Ethics. Be a cohesive part of USA Team.
- H. Violations
- a) On any international assignment where members of the delegation do not follow the rules and responsibilities listed in section thirteen disciplinary actions will be taken as outlined in section Two and Three from the most updated version of the Acrobatic Gymnastics Program Rules and Policies.

SECTION FOURTEEN JUDGING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Judging Clinic and Testing Procedures

- A. The National Technical Committee must approve the clinicians, dates and content of judging clinics. USA Gymnastics must sanction clinics that involve athletes. It is recommended that the National Office be advised of all clinics.
- B. Tests are to be corrected by the National Technical Committee Chairman or designated member of the National Technical Committee. Test takers are to be notified of results within 30 days of testing.
- C. Clinic content and materials, minimum time requirements of clinics, and exams will be reviewed and revised if appropriate annually by the National Technical Committee. The National Technical Committee Chairman will communicate this information with the Regional Technical Committee Chairman annually.
- D. The National Technical Committee will maintain a list of approved clinicians who may conduct refresher courses and exams, new judge certification courses and exams, and/or upgrade courses and exams. This list is available through the National Office. Individuals not on this list are not approved to teach or proctor testing at sanctioned judges' clinics. The Regional Technical Committee Members are approved to conduct the 1st year local judges' course. This course is only available to new judges learning acrobatic gymnastic rules and regulations for the first time. Exceptions are only for judges that have worked previously, but have been removed from judging for at least 2 seasons and are starting over with the judging progression policies. Or, any judge that does not pass their recertification course and must start over at the local level.
- E. The National Technical Committee Chairman or clinician appointed by the NTCC is the only person that may give the National level video exam and the entire National Superior level exam. The National, including video and National Superior test is only given at the National judging course (NJC).
- F. The National Judge's Course is open to all judges rated state level and higher to attend for education and recertification. It is REQUIRED that all Nationally rated judges and higher attend the course in the year starting a new quad.
- G. Judges who come to the United States with an international rating and wish to be rated to judge the Junior Olympic levels must take and pass the certification examination for the level at which they wish to judge. The test may be given orally or in written form as needed to accommodate language difficulties.
- H. The Regional Technical Committee Member will keep accurate records of judge's assignments throughout the competition season. Each region will be responsible for sending a report to the National Technical Chairman no later than 14 days following the conclusion of Regional Championships. The Regional Technical Committee Member will also submit the artistry and execution judge's forms from both State and Regional Championships, along with meet results from both events.

I.

Judging Progression Policies	Local Judge	State Judge	Regional Judge	National Judge	National Superior	Brevet Judge
Must be at minimum 18 years old on January 1 of the year in which he/she is judging.	X					
Must pass the approved local level written test at 80% (open book)	X					
Must pass a practical evaluation in a competition setting at 80% or higher.	X					
Judge two competitive seasons with minimum experience of four competitions judged, of which two are execution assignments and two are artistry assignments.	If Yes...	Upgrade				
Must pass approved state level written test at 70% minimum (closed book). It includes evaluation of correct tariff sheets.		X				
May act as CJP at local and state meets.		X				
All of the following must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve two competitive seasons as a State level judge and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge at two state and one regional championships, and • Serve a minimum of one time as CJP and one time as Difficulty Judge at a competition with optional exercises and minimum of two hours of competition. 		If Yes...	Upgrade			
Must pass the approved regional level written test at 70% minimum (closed book). This test includes diagram evaluations using the FIG Tables of Difficulty.			X			
All of the following conditions must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve two competitive seasons as a Regional level judge • Serve as Meet Referee at least twice • Serve a minimum of one time as CJP and one time as Difficulty Judge at a competition with optional exercises and minimum of two hours of competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge at a minimum of one state or regional championship in each of the two seasons as a Regional level judge • Judge at one of the approved national-level events or attend an approved National level event, such as team Training Camp(s) for judge's education or the NJC. 			If Yes	Upgrade		

Must pass the approved national level written test at 70% minimum (closed book). This test includes diagram evaluations using the FIG Tables of Difficulty.				X		
Judging Progression Policies	Local Judge	State Judge	Regional Judge	National Judge	National Superior	Brevet Judge
<p>All of the following conditions must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve two competitive seasons as a National judge • Serve as Meet Referee at least once • Serve a minimum of one time as a CJP or Difficulty Judge at a competition with optional exercises and two hours of competition time in each of the two seasons as a National level judge • Judge at a minimum of one state or regional championship in each of the two seasons as a National level judge • Judge at one of the approved national-level events or attend an approved National level event, such as team Training Camp(s) for judge's education or the NJC 				If Yes...	Upgrade	
<p>National Superior: This is the highest level a judge can achieve in the USA. Criteria to become a new national superior judge is based on written exam, performance at National level competitions, and conduct as a judge. Judges interested in earning a NS rating must submit a letter of interest to the NTCC in the year prior to eligibility. Judges must be willing to attend National level events and/or National level judges education in order to qualify.</p> <p>Maintaining National Superior Rating: Once achieved, NS judges may maintain their rating by performing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as MR at least 1 time per season • Serve a minimum of one time per season as a CJP or DJ at a competition with optional level athletes and 2 hours of competition time. • Judge at a minimum of one state or one regional championships per season • Attend at least one national level event (National Championships, Acro Cup, Training Camps, or NJC) every 2 years <p>Must pass the approved national superior level written test at 70% minimum (closed book). This test includes diagram evaluation using the FIG Tables of Difficulty.</p>					X	
						Invite Only

- I. National Rated Judge
 - a) Any judge upgrading from Regional to National rating must attend the NJC to take the appropriate judge's certification.
 - b) At the beginning of every new cycle, a judge with a National rating must attend the NJC or the judge will lose their National Rating. If a judge is unable to attend the NJC at the start of the new cycle, a petition may be submitted to the National Technical Chair for review by Program Committee. A decision will be given within two (2) weeks of the submitted petition. A judge will lose their current rating if the petition is not approved. Petitions must be accompanied by all relevant documentation per the Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies – Petition (Section VIII). If a judge loses their rating the judge is eligible to upgrade to the next rating at the next NJC.
 - c) National Superior Judge

- J. National Superior Judge
 - a) Every two (2) years, including the year of the new cycle, a judge with a National Superior rating, must attend the NJC or the judge will lose their National Superior rating. If a judge is unable to attend the NJC, a petition may be submitted to the National Technical Chair for review by Program Committee. A decision will be given within two (2) weeks of the submitted petition. A judge will lose their current rating if the petition is not approved. Petitions must be accompanied by all relevant documentation per the Acrobatic Gymnastics Rules and Policies – Petition (Section VIII). If a judge loses their rating the judge is eligible to upgrade to the next rating at the next NJC.
 - b) Maintaining National Superior Ratings: Once earned, a judge must perform all duties associated with staying current as a National Superior judge. (Listed above). If these criteria cannot be done, the judge must reach out to the NTCC to remedy the situation. The RTCC will ensure that all NS judges receive the opportunity each season to work in the appropriate positions to make this possible. If a judge chooses not to stay current, he or she must go through the process to earn the rating back again, through the National level development path. Any special circumstances must be submitted in writing to the NTCC and the acrobatics gymnastics program manager.

- K. International Judge
 - a) Judges must take an Acrobatic Gymnastics International Judging Course

given within this country before being recommended to judge at any international competitions.

- b) It is only those judges who have taken an international course within this country who will be recommended to take a FIG Brevet course given elsewhere in the world.
- c) In order to be considered to attend any FIG course, a judge must be a National Superior judge within the USA and in good standing.
- d) It is only those judges that have taken and passed a FIG Brevet course who will receive the pay scale for International within this country.

L. For Progression Policies or Maintenance Requirements the following are true:

- a) A national-level competition (i.e. National Championships, World Team Trials, etc.) can be used in lieu of a regional or state competition requirement.
- b) Definition of “every two years” – is a rolling two year period. Meaning that a judge may not go two consecutive years without completing the requirements.
- c) In order to maintain National level status and higher, judges must participate at a National Level Event at least 1 time in a rolling 2 year span. A National Level Event includes National Championships, National Judge’s Course, National Selection Events, or National Team Training Camp where judge’s education is included.

M. Requirements for Maintaining Judging Certification

- a) To maintain status, all judges must complete all of the following requirements annually:
 - 1. Judge at least one sanctioned meet;
 - 2. Attend a sanctioned refresher course and pass at 80% or higher a closed book re-certification test; and
 - 3. Complete a minimum of four hours of gym observation time.
 - 4. Additional requirements for National Level Judges and higher:
 - i. National level judges must:
 - 1) Judge one State or Regional competition per season; and
 - 2) Judge one national-level event every two seasons, see above section for a detailed list of approved events.
 - 3) Serve as Meet Referee once within two years; and
 - 4) Serve as CJP or DJ a minimum of one time per season.
 - 5) Must attend the NJC on the year starting a new quad.
 - ii. If he/she fails to maintain status, the judge must retake the certification course and pass the exam at the rating that he/she had or at a lower level. If the judge chooses to take a lower certification

level test, he/she must follow the above requirements for progression from that point.

- iii. If the judge needs or chooses to re-test after taking a break from judging for whatever reason and for whatever duration of time, then the rolling two-year period would start over once they recertify. Requirements would need to be met and that judge could upgrade two years from then.

L. Judges' Uniforms

- a) Judges must wear the correct uniform:
 1. Women: black blazer (must be worn during march in and athlete presentation) , black skirt/slacks/split skirt (skort). No capris or shorts allowed. White blouse, black closed toe or peep toe shoe (no flip-flops, or sandals), official USA Gymnastics judges' patch. The hemline is to be no shorter than 3" above the knee.
 2. Men: black blazer and slacks, white shirt, red tie, black shoes, official USA Gymnastics judges' patch.
 3. Turn off cell phone (or set at vibrate mode) while in the "field of play" to avoid disturbing the competition. Phones should not be sitting on the table.

N. Judges' Compensation

- a) Judge's Rating Hourly Fee
 1. Local \$14.00
 2. Line Judges at Nationals \$14.00
 3. State \$16.00
 4. Regional \$18.00
 5. National \$25.00
 6. National Superior \$27.00
 7. International \$30.00
- b) Additional Compensation
 1. Meet Referees receive \$75.00 per meet day in addition to their hourly fees. At national-level competitions, meet referees are compensated \$75 per session. At national-level competitions, if an assistant meet referee is utilized, the assistant meet referee is to be compensated \$75 per session.
 2. CJPs and Difficulty Judges receive an additional \$25.00 per meet day in addition to their hourly fees for judging Level 7 and below, \$50.00 per day for judging Level 8 and above.
 3. If a judge is Meet Referee and either Difficulty Judge or CJP, he/she receives the higher compensation, not both.
 4. Evening sessions are considered another day when applying CJP and Difficulty Judge's fees.

- c) There is a two hour minimum guarantee for each competition day. All judges are to be paid according to their USA Gymnastics rating for the hours they are required to be at the meet site. This includes any meetings the judges are required to attend. For local, state and regional competitions, judges will be paid 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition, and remain on the clock until at least 15 minutes following the end of the competition. Lunch break and warm up times should be paid.
- d) Judges should be paid at the conclusion of the competition with the exception of national-level competition.
- e) Clinician Fees: Clinicians of Judges' Courses will receive \$175 per clinic day plus reimbursement of all travel and course expenses. 1st year local courses will be one 8-hour day. It will be up to each region to decide how to handle the compensation of the 1st year local judge's course. If the region can pay compensation, the rate is \$150.00 for one 8-hour day plus any travel and course expenses.